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Inter-Arab Affairs

Mubarak To Attempt Syrian-Iraqi Reconciliation

JN1706164789 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
16 Jun 89 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that President Husni Mubarak will attempt during the coming few days, in coordination with King Husayn of Jordan, to approximate the views of both President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and President Saddam Husayn of Iraq. Arab diplomatic quarters affirmed that President Mubarak, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and King Husayn will attempt during the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council Alexandria summit to persuade the Iraqi president to take a more lenient stand vis-a-vis Syria.

These quarters paid tribute to the recent change in the Syrian position vis-a-vis the Lebanese crisis and also to the announcement made by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in which he said that Syria supports the efforts being made by the three-member Arab committee headed by King Hassan II of Morocco to resolve the Lebanese crisis. AL-WAFD also learned that it has been decided to postpone the resumption of Egyptian-Syrian diplomatic ties until direct contact channels are established between Baghdad and Damascus. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn assailed the Syrian intervention in Lebanon during the final session of the extraordinary Arab summit.

Further Reportage on 15-16 June ACC Summit

Summit Resolutions Issued

NC1606195087 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1737 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Resolutions issued by the Supreme Committee of the Arab Cooperation Council, by Secretary-General Dr Hilmi Nammar at the Al-Muntazah Palace in Alexandria—live]

[Text] The Supreme Committee of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] held a special meeting in the town of Alexandria during the period 11-12 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1409 Hegira, corresponding to 15-16 June 1989. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and was attended by His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Iraqi Republic; and His Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic.

The following resolutions were adopted:

1. After reviewing the recommendation of the ministerial committee at its meeting on 14 June 1989 on the nomination of a secretary-general for the ACC and on the basis of Clause 5 of Article 7 of the agreement establishing the ACC, it was decided to appoint Dr Hilmi Mahmud Nammar as ACC secretary-general.

2. After reviewing the recommendation of the ministerial committee during its first meeting on the draft rules of working procedure for the ACC and on the basis of Clause 4 of Article 7 of the agreement establishing the ACC, it was decided to approve the rules of working procedures for the ACC.

3. After reviewing the recommendation of the ministerial committee during its first meeting on the convention on privileges and immunities within the ACC and on the basis of Article 15 of the agreement establishing the ACC, it was decided to approve the convention on privileges and immunities within the ACC.

4. After reviewing the recommendation of the ministerial committee during its first meeting on the movement and work of the nationals of the ACC states and on the basis of Clause 2E of Article 2 of the agreement establishing the ACC, it was decided to approve the recommendation of the ministerial committee on the movement and work of the nationals of the ACC states.

5. After reviewing the recommendation of the ministerial committee at its first meeting on the agreement on legal and judicial cooperation among the ACC states, and on the basis of Clause 1 of Article 2 of the agreement establishing the ACC, it was decided to approve the agreement on legal and judicial cooperation among the ACC states.

6. After reviewing the recommendation of the ministerial committee on air transport and civil aviation and on the basis of Clause 2B of Article 2 of the agreement establishing the ACC, it was decided to set up a unified aviation council for the ACC states composed of the heads of the civil aviation authorities and directors of national airlines of the ACC states and to have this council convene as soon as possible.

The recommendations of the ministerial committee on air transport and civil aviation will be referred to the aforementioned council, which will discuss them in detail and submit its recommendations to the ministerial commmittee at its next meeting. The ministerial committee will then make its own recommendations to the ACC Supreme Committee. The ministerial committee's recommendations will be the framework governing the activity of a unified aviation council of the ACC states.

7. After reviewing the recommendations of the ministerial committee at its first meeting on the scope of coordination and cooperation among the foreign ministries of the ACC member states and on the basis of Clause 1 of Article 2 of the agreement establishing the

ACC, it was decided to approve the ministerial committee's recommendation on the scope of coordination and cooperation among the foreign ministries of the ACC member states.

8. The ACC Supreme Committee states that the ACC countries, which are committed to not using, or threatening to use, force among themselves will act to reaffirm these principles in their relations with sister Arab countries. The ACC countries reiterate their commitment to the joint defense pact and the principle of economic cooperation among the members of the Arab League.

9. The Supreme Committee reviewed the resolutions adopted by the ACC ministerial committee at its two meetings in Baghdad in Ramadan 1409 Hegira, corresponding to April 1989, and in Cairo in Dhu al-Qi'dah 1409 Hegira, corresponding to June 1989, and took note of them.

10. The ACC Supreme Committee decided to hold its next meeting in Sanaa, in the Yemen Arab Republic, between 25 and 27 September 1989.

Nammar Holds News Conference

NC1706054789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Alexandria, 16 Jun (MENA)—Dr Hilmi Nammar, Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] secretary-general, held a news conference after the ACC Supreme Committee's final session in Alexandria. Dr Nammar began by delivering a statement on the meetings of the ACC Supreme Committee's special session. The following is the text of his statement:

To continue the march of solidarity and fraternity which started in Baghdad on 10 Rajab, 1409 of the Hegira, corresponding to 16 February 1989, and placed the fraternal countries of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] at the threshold of new horizons for joint Arab action full of opportunities for development and prosperity, the Arab Republic of Egypt hosted between 11-13 Dhu al-Qi'dah, corresponding to 15-17 June 1989, the first special meeting of the ACC Supreme Committee convened under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Also participating in the meetings were His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq; and His Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR.

The four leaders expressed their satisfaction with the spontaneous manifestations of overwhelming support demonstrated over the past 4 months by the peoples of their countries through all means of expression and mass communication and through the constitutional establishments of the four countries, for the blessed step of the establishment of the ACC. This support expresses their refined sensitivity and sound popular perception of pan-Arab interests. The four Arab leaders found in this support renewed authority from their peoples to continue resolutely and firmly along the ACC march. The four leaders laid the foundations of the ACC infrastructure for its future actions. At this meeting, the ACC Supreme Committee passed a number of resolutions emphasizing this march.

The four leaders studied the results of the meetings of the emergency Arab summit in Casablanca and welcomed the Arab Republic of Egypt's resumption of its active membership in the Arab League. They expressed confidence that this will reflect more positively and effectively on joint Arab action and will strengthen Arab solidarity and support the nation's ability to confront challenges in all spheres.

The four leaders reviewed developments in the situation between Iraq and Iran. They expressed their deep satisfaction with the cease-fire and the start of the negotiations under the auspices of the UN secretary-general for a comprehensive, just, and permanent settlement to this conflict. They stressed that the cease-fire must be a starting point for a comprehensive, permanent, and just peace between Iraq and Iran and the establishment of peace and security in the region. They expressed the hope that the cease-fire will quickly become a way to establish peace and consolidate security and stability. They called for international and regional efforts to stimulate and intensify the direct negotiations under the auspices of the UN secretary-general to establish peace on the basis of Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987 which sets out a plan to achieve peace. THey called for protection of Iraq's rights and sovereignty over its territory and waters, urged noninterference in its domestic affairs, and urged the guaranteeing of the security of the Arabian Gulf and freedom of unimpeded navigation in its international waters and through the Strait of Hormuz.

The four leaders stressed the need to confront all attempts to obstruct or delay the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 to the detriment of national and pan-Arab rights. They emphasized their full solidarity with Iraq in safeguarding its territorial integrity and historical rights and sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab. They expressed their support for the call to the United Nations for clearing Shatt al-'Arab to render it navigable and safe.

The four leaders expressed their concern over the continuing tragedy of the POW's despite the suspension of military operations since 20 August 1988 in contravention of the provisions of Security Council Resolution 598 and the third Geneva convention on POW's signed in 1949. They called on the United Nations and international organizations to take all possible measures to ensure the release of POW's and their return home

without any delay to end their and their families' suffering. They praised the UN secretary-general's efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive, and permanent settlement to the conflict and to establish peace and security in the Arabian Gulf.

The four leaders asserted their support for the fraternal Palestinian people, hailed their blessed intifadah [uprising], and stressed that they will continue to offer help and assistance to the intifadah. They denounced Israel's brutal policy and condemned the Israeli occupation authorities' arbitrary measures and actions against the citizens of the occupied Arab land. They expressed their support for the Palestinian leadership's positive course aimed at participating in the peace process to reach a comprehensive and permanent settlement of the conflict through an international peace conference. They welcome the resolutions of the 19th session of the Palestine National Council and the establishment of a Palestinian state, expressed their support for the Palestinian peace initiative, and urged taking advantage of the suitable international climate to achieve a comprehensive settlement.

The four leaders underlined their support for the tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon. They expressed their hope that its efforts will lead to a peaceful settlement that will stop the bloodshed and preserve fraternal Lebanon's sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity. They emphasized their countries' position on the need for the withdrawal of non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. They expressed confidence that Lebanon is a sovereign nation and its people have sufficient awareness and concern about the security of their country to do away with any need for foreign interference.

His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, and His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih expressed their extreme happiness at visiting the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt and meeting with His Excellency President Husni Mubarak. They also expressed their thanks and appreciation for the hospitality accorded them by the sons of the fraternal Egyptian people. The four leaders expressed their determination to continue the march and intensify their efforts on the path of serious unitary action to achieve further strength and a better future for their peoples and for all peoples of the Arab nation.

Leaders Meet With Editors

NC1706142189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] Alexandria, 17 Jun (MENA)—The leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] met last night with editors of the Egyptian press and MENA at the conclusion of the ACC Supreme Committee's meetings. They replied to questions posed to them in this 1-hour meeting.

On whether it was possible to take broader steps than the ones taken by the committee, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn said: The masses and intellectuals are always demanding broader steps than the ones taken by politicians. They may be right but when we agreed as brothers, we sought to deal with the facts and their possibilities. We preferred to start with one step that all our countries would take and which we are all enthusiastic about so that it could be followed by other steps according to certain timetables and the existing resources. This step will therefore be appropriate even if it looks like a small one from the intellectual or political perspective.

His excellency added: What encourages us is that the peoples in the four countries want more. We will take this into our consideration in our future meetings. He said: We are working toward a specific situation. We have agreed, from a pan-Arab view, that this specific situation should be different from what took place in the fifties, not because we do not want this but because the situation today does not tolerate what used to take place in the fifties. This is a call for reason. When we call for reason, it does not mean abandoning the masses' romanticism but adapting this romanticism to the facts and the resources.

Replying to a question on his concept of future events within ACC framework, His Majesty King Husayn said: I agree completely with what my brother President Saddam Husayn has said. There is complete understanding on cooperation that is based on firm convictions. Thus when the question about broader steps was raised, President Saddam expressed it on behalf of us all. His majesty added: We consider this the beginning. The aims are precious and dear to us. We in our country have backed the Arab issues and the Arab masses' issues with all our resources and with a spirit inspired by our consciences. The ambitions are undoubtedly very great. We are looking toward more cooperation in every field and call on God to give us success.

Giving his opinion of the achievements made by the ACC, President Mubarak said: The Alexandria meeting was the start of action and completion of what was achieved in Baghdad. We concluded transport and judiciary agreements. We also discussed some principles and underlined our commitment to them as Arab countries.

President Mubarak added: The wheel has started to turn. We might think that it is turning slowly, but President Saddam has replied to this. We are taking calm and prudent steps so that no setback will occur because if one does, then the people will lose confidence. Also, more than that, the forces working against us will be happy with it. We do not want anyone to rejoice over our misfortunes, nor do we want to rejoice over the misfortunes of others. We want to take firm and regular steps. It is easy to take quick steps which cannot be implemented. We must be serious and, as my brother President Saddam has just said, the methods of the fifties, or the sixties, or even the seventies are not suitable for us.

Circumstances are changing, and there are many events that are affecting our march. It is wise for our steps, even if they are small, to take place on strong bases that do not shake.

President Husni Mubarak said: We took steps at the Alexandria conference. There will be further achievements in Sanaa in September. We are watching the wheel turn and gain momentum.

His excellency added: Our highest goal is to serve the interests of the people. We will seek to achieve this goal through cooperation and love. It is also our goal to improve the standard of living for the citizens of the countries of the ACC. We have other goals such as safeguarding and respecting the sovereignty of each entity and not interfering in domestic affairs.

Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: I agree with what brothers President Mubarak, President Saddam, and his majesty the king have said. As the Egyptian proverb goes, we are building by laying one brick on top of the other. We do not wish any Arab action to suffer setbacks. When we established the ACC, bilateral relations existed among its member states. There was friendship and mutual trust among the leaders themselves. This trust increased, took root, and prompted the leaders to establish the council and we wish it success. President Salih added: We have considered past and present events and the kind of future we want. These groupings, as brother President Husni Mubarak said, do not prevent coordination with the other Arab states, with Qatar, Bahrain, or Abu Dhabi for example. When trust is generated and when benefits are exchanged, there is nothing to prevent cooperation and coordination with the Gulf Cooperation Council or the Arab Maghreb Union.

The Yemeni president also said: These are all gains along the path of Arab solidarity because the Arab citizen has been suffering and grieving since the setback of the sixties. Therefore, as the leaders said, we do not want to suffer a new setback. There is a foreign plot against the Arab nation's unity. It is a plot aimed at preventing this nation from becoming strong and impregnable and from achieving progress. Each step must be well studied in order that we may be able to ensure and safeguard the interests of the masses. The coordination steps are not confined to the ACC's states. There is cooperation among all Arab countries. We implore God to enable us to take the great step: the realization of coprehensive Arab unity.

Responding to a question on coordination among the Arab states, President Mubarak said: There is coordination between us and the fraternal Arab states in many fields, although we started this coordination at the ACC. These are firm facts among us in our capacity as Arab states which are cofounders of the Arab League. This does not mean that we in the Arab economic council have isolated ourselves. We act at the same time in our capacity as Arab League members. The steps to be taken for coordination among the Arab groupings will coincide with the coordination of bilateral relations.

Responding to a question on current Arab issues, His Majesty King Husayn said: We wish for the success of the tripartite committee on Lebanon and hope it achieves positive results because the situation in Lebanon is intolerable and will pose a threat to the Arab nation if it remains unchanged. Regarding other issues, we welcome any action, on any level, that serves the Palestinian cause.

In answer to a question, President Saddam Husayn said: When we speak of understanding, we are not being romantics. We begin by assuming an optimistic attitude on positive issues. We are optimistic about the Palestinian issue and the departure of foreign forces from Lebanon. Why are we optimistic? It is because we are Arabs who are determined that the Palestinians must obtain their rights and that foreign forces must leave Lebanon, the Syrian forces first of all. Second, Syria must cooperate with us to secure the departure of the Iranian forces it has brought into Lebanon. Third, all of us, as Arabs, must cooperate and be active in all arenas, including on the international scene, at the UN Security Council and with its permanent members in order to make the Israeli forces leave the occupied zone in Lebanon.

President Saddam Husayn added: Another thing that makes us optimistic is that when the Arab nation wants to, it can achieve much. There is understanding in the world today of the will of nations and their sovereignty over their territory. Therefore, we are optimistic that the Palestinians will obtain their rights and that Syrian and other foreign forces will leave Lebanon and allow the Lebanese people to decide their destiny through a constructive dialogue among all parties.

Asked to assess the situation in Iran and its effect on the Gulf region, he said: We Arabs have developed and matured a great deal. In our relationship with Iran, we want every state to respect the sovereignty of other states and not to interfere in their internal affairs. Let the Iranians live in their country and enjoy all their rights and sovereignty. We want the same rights for the Arab nation from its farthest reaches in the east to its boundaries in the west. This means that Iran must not meddle in the affairs of the Arabs, must refrain from usurping their rights, and must not believe that it can export creeds to them.

The Iraqi president added What we are asking for is part of the essence of international relations set forth by the UN Charter and by existing international relations based on justice and equality among nations. As far as we are concerned, it does not matter that this one is called a moderate and that one an extremist except with regard to this moderate's or that extremist's positive or negative attitude to these principles. As far as we, the Arabs, are

concerned, we want both the moderates and the extremists to respect the Arab nation and neighborliness and not interfere in the Arab nation's affairs.

President Saddam said: Before the war with Iran we were optimistic, on the first day of the war we were optimistic, and on the day before the cease-fire we were optimistic. This is so because we always resort to the laws that protect the rights of peoples. Our optimism is based on our reliance on the Arab nation's will. We have not embraced false slogans. The constant law is peace. We cannot say anything except that we are optimistic about peace. Peace will come regardless of the talk that is going on about details. Peace will come because the Iranian people have realized that war is futile and that peace brings blessings. He who wants to heal the wounds must not move in the direction of further war but in the direction of further peace.

Asked about the next meeting in Sanaa, the Yemeni president said that the general atmosphere will be excellent and will enable the ministerial committee to prepare topics for an agenda in light of the Alexandria summit resolutions. Some of the topics will be implemented and others will be studied and referred to the summit so the necessary resolutions can be adopted.

Asked about specific requirements for any country wishing to join the ACC, President Mubarak said: There are absolutely no specific requirements. All the brothers agree with me. It must be an Arab state, and one could join now. We are still at the beginning and laying the foundations. The wheel will turn and the results will show how much we have achieved. If everything goes as expected, we will welcome anyone who wishes to join us regardless of geographic location in the Arab world.

President Mubarak continued: I agree with President Saddam Husayn when he said that the door is open. King Husayn and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said that the council is open to everyone. We are all laying the foundation so that the wheel will turn. The wheel will turn better and achieve better results if homogeneity, understanding, and agreement prevail from the beginning. We have nothing that separates us and we work for no single interest. We work for the interests of our people and our objectives are clear. We welcome any country that wishes to join us without introducing new ideas or new foundations and without amending the charter. The foundation should be strong and solid as though we were constructing a huge building.

President Mubarak went on to say: I am fully satisfied with the outcome of the Alexandria summit. We speak frankly and have no secrets. There is absolute—even extreme—absolute frankness among us, and as President Saddam said there is no problem that cannot be solved because there are so many options. We are similar in our thinking and understanding as well as in everything else. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih noted that the four Arab countries express their views freely and every viewpoint is received with full understanding. There is no flattery; our ideas are completely similar, and all resolutions are adopted unanimously, out of complete conviction and as a result of in-depth study.

Replying to a question, His Majesty King Husayn said that there is cooperation and similarity with the other Arab groupings, whether in the Gulf or the Arab Maghreb. He added that the Arab League is the umbrella under which we all cooperate. We must conduct studies and look for the suitable formulas so that the Arab League will be effective and influential. The Arab summits usually convene at dates set in advance and every summit serves the interests of the Arab nation. Meetings and cooperation always occur at the summit level.

At the end of the news conference, President Saddam Husayn said that the ACC is not a temporary event. Had it been proposed during the war with Iran we would have said it is a temporary situation that led to a specific economic arrangement. We have prepared studies for the present and the future. There is a difference between 22 states being present and 4 states being present, as is the case with us. We hope, God willing, the number will increase as President Mubarak has stated. The entire world is witnessing developments. Countries in the world with one-party systems are looking for more parties. Countries with one political current seek more than one current. Our Arab region is not isolated from the world. We are convinced that we need to meet and promote our objectives democratically and amicably within our capabilities, as pointed out by President Mubarak, without isolating ourselves from the Arab nation for the sake of the interests of the masses.

Saddam Leaves for Home

NC1706054389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2257 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 16 Jun (MENA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn left Alexandria tonight for home after a 2-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, he attended the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council Supreme Committee which includes Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic. He was seen off at the airport by President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Yemeni President Departs

NC1706093289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 17 Jun (MENA)—Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, and his accompanying delegation left Al-Nuzhah Airport this morning after attending the Arab Cooperation Council summit which was held in Alexandria. He was seen off by President Husni Mubarak and other senior officials. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Official Accepts Elections With Guarantees

JN1806134889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim has told our radio that the PLO is not opposed to the notion of elections in the occupied territories provided they are conducted under guarantees by the United Nations, the two superpowers, or the five permanent members of the Security Council. Milhim said the PLO knows that Shamir's proposed election plan was merely a ruse to win Western support. The PLO supports the elections, but not under Israeli occupation. Milhim wondered about Israel's turnaround on the election issue. He recalled the PLO's repeated attempts—and Begin's and Shamir's rejections—since 1980 to hold municipal elections in the occupied land rather than having town councils appointed by the Israeli authorities. He ascribed Israel's shift away from rejecting elections to Tel Aviv's attempt to break out of the stranglehold of the intifadah [uprising] and the Palestinian peace initiative endorsed by the Casablanca summit resolutions.

Meanwhile, Milhim said that threats by Yitzhak Rabin and Dan Shomron to step up repression by carrying out more arrests and deportations and building further prison facilities to house Palestinian detainees can only be issued by military generals rather than government officials who contend in their public utterances that they are responsible people extending their hand for peace.

Milhim, who was expelled [from the West Bank] in 1980, said that the Israeli authorities have deported 10,000 Palestinians since 1967, which has only led to a more intense rejection of the occupation of Arab land. The prisons, he added, graduate nationalist cadres for the intifadah. This goes to show the bankruptcy of the policies of deportations and repression, as he put it.

Fatah Congress To Replace Martyrs, Dissidents

JN1906093289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Jun (WAKH)—Press reports here today said that the Palestine National Liberation Front-Fatah has decided to hold its general congress during the 2d week of July. The reports added that the Fatah Revolutionary Council, at the conclusion of its meetings a few days ago, charged Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat with the chairmanship of the preparatory committee to prepare for the congress. High-ranking Palestinian sources described the upcoming congress as the most important in the history of the Fatah movement. Today's Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD quoted Palestinian sources as saying that during this congress eight new members will be appointed to replace the martyrs and dissidents. The congress will also discuss the course of the mammoth Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territory and the recent developments in the Palestinian arena.

General Strike Call Termed 'Message' to U.S.

JN1606201189 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1846 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers; masses of our heroic Palestinian people; knights of the intifadah [uprising]; knights of the war of national independence [words indistinct] traveling along the path of the glorious intifadah until the great victory.

Tomorrow, Saturday, is the first of the days of heroic militant activities set by the call of the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising [UNLU]—the call of defiance and staying the course—Call No 41. Tomorrow—Saturday—is a day of general strike to call on the U.S. Administration to convene an authoritative international conference as the mechanism capable of bringing fair peace to the region.

As the UNLU calls a day of general strike with a view to bringing this clear, decisive Palestinian message to the attention of the U.S. Administration, it drives home the message that the U.S. Administration is a party to the conflict as long as it remains brazenly biased in favor of the Israeli enemy on all fronts, backing its murderous policies against the masses of our heroic Palestinian masses.

The general strike in the occupied Palestinian land is called to urge the U.S. Administration to accommodate the will of the international community so that an international Middle East peace conference be convened. Our people's will has been forged by their struggle, with the gigantic intifadah giving it added potency and clarity. The international conference is the high road to the establishment of just peace in the Middle East and the forum where our people can negotiate for their national, human, and inalienable political rights including repatriation, self-determination, and statehood.

Our conviction that the U.S. Administration is a party to the conflict on the side of the Zionist enemy makes it all the more necessary that we exercise our legitimate right to confront it through various means of struggle which are bound to develop—should the United States continue on this course. Hence the call of the UNLU for a general strike for tomorrow—Saturday—by way of urging Washington to convene the powerful international conference rather than support Shamir's conspiratorial plan. The international peace conference is the proper forum at which the U.S. Administration can adopt a responsible position on peace in the Middle East. It is there that U.S. credibility on the Middle East and its alleged mediating role in the dispute can be put to the test.

As long as the U.S. Administration continues to side with the Israeli enemy, we will view it as a party to the conflict—which we know how to tackle. Even our dialogue with the U.S. Administration, which we want to sustain and develop, is a form of struggle until Washington embraces the role of broker and major power, assuming its humanitarian, political, and cultural responsibilities toward relative rather than absolute right, justice, and peace.

As we know only too well that Tel Aviv's crucial decisions are made in Washington, the United States must be held responsible for Israel's continued occupation of our land as well as the ongoing crimes against our defenseless people by the Israeli occupation forces. Tomorrow will be observed as a day of general strike to protest the biased positions of the U.S. Administration. And the day after tomorrow will see another form of our legitimate national struggle in the context of our gigantic intifdah until victory is assured.

DFLP on Prisoner Exchange Negotiations

JN1706123489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has stated that the negotiations under way to hand over Israeli Sergeant Major Samir As'ad in exchange for the suspension of the decision to deport 13 Palestinians might be undermined after the Israeli authorities decided to expel 2 of the 13 Palestinians. The Israeli authorities granted them 1 week to implement the decision.

Egypt

Amal Radio Says Al-Qadhdhafi To Visit 18 Jun

NC1706102689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] According to press information in Kuwait, Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will visit Cairo tomorrow to continue the talks begun in Casablanca with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Embassy Agreement Reached

NC1806204389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR reports in tomorrow's edition that diplomatic offices in Egypt and Libya are expected to open within the next few days. The paper adds that the Egyptian Embassy in Tripoli and the Libyan Liaison Office in Cairo will reopen in a few days and the flag of each state will be hoisted over the building of its diplomatic mission.

AL-AKHBAR goes on to say that a delegation representing the Libyan People's Committee for External Liaison—Libya's foreign ministry—will arrive in Cairo for this purpose. Meanwhile, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry delegation is expected in Tripoli to reopen the embassy and raise the Egyptian flag.

AL-AKHBAR notes that an agreement was reached between Egypt and Libya during the talks held in Tripoli by Ambassador Nabil al-Sillawi, director of the African Desk at the Foreign Ministry, to reopen the diplomatic offices in both Cairo and Tripoli on 20 June. It points out that an Egyptian team chose the new Egyptian Embassy building in Tripoli during the past few days. Likewise, a Libyan team has selected a building to serve as temporary premises for the Libyan Liaison Office in Cairo until the old premises are ready.

Shipping Route To Open

JN1706174189 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 16 Jun 89 p 1

[By Muhammad Shakir]

[Text] Alexandria—After a suspension of 10 years, the shipping route between Alexandria and Tripoli will become operational again.

The first ship, the "Gharnata," will arrive on Monday with 850 passengers from Libya on board. It has also been decided that this line shall be regular once a week.

The ship will stay at the port of Alexandria from 0800 in the morning until sunset, after passengers disembark and their luggage is unloaded.

The Libyan authorities have requested the Transport, Communications, and Maritime Transport Ministry to supervise services extended to the ship.

The ship's captain will visit senior officials in the governorate and the Alexandria Port Authority.

Libyan Ship Docks

NC1906082889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Alexandria, 19 Jun (MENA)—The Libyan passenger ship "Gharnata" arrived in Alexandria port from Banghazi this morning. This is the first visit by a Libyan ship to an Egyptian port in 10 years. The ship carries a 30-member Libyan delegation from the Libyan maritime transport sector, as well as 329 passengers, all Egyptians working in Libya.

The docking of this ship at Alexandria marks the reopening of the maritime route between Libya and Egypt. It closely follows the reopening of the overland and air routes between the two countries.

The Libyan ship "Qar Yunis" is scheduled to make two trips to Alexandria on 24 June and 1 July, carrying 500 passengers on each trip.

Makramallah Interviewed on Economy, IMF

JN1706141689 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Jun 89 p 9

[By Najla' Dhikra]

[Text] Meetings between the ministerial group and the IMF team will begin in Cairo at the beginning of next week. The two sides will discuss the economic reform measures adopted by Egypt during the past period as a prelude to drawing the broad outlines of a new letter of intent with the IMF enabling the Egyptian Government to reschedule debt arrears amounting to $3.5 billion.

Economic experts expect the recent crises in Argentina, Venezuela, Jordan, Algeria, and Nigeria to ease the IMF's strictness in its dialogue with Egypt and make it consider the social dimension of the reform process—a process that Egypt is implementing gradually.

Many influential parties will take part in dialogue with the IMF. The Central Bank, the Finance Ministry, and the Ministry of International Cooperation will prepare for and take part in the dialogue as basic partners.

We met with Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation and one of the basic negotiators with the IMF, to dot the i's of the Egyptian people's topic of the hour.

The first inquiry concerned the nature of the current dialogue between Egypt and the IMF, what the Egyptian Government is putting on the negotiating table, and when we can go to the Paris Club for negotiaitons to reschedule arrears once an agreement with the IMF is reached.

Dr Maurice Makramallah replied by explaining the nature of the dialogue between Egypt and the IMF, stressing that ecomomic reform is Egypt's not the IMF's battle. He said the reforms, which have already started, are essential even if there was no dialogue with the IMF in order to redress the internal gap resulting from the failure of revenues to cover all needs. This gap means that local production and turnout resulting from dealing with the outside world cannot satisfy public consumption and investment. Reforms are also essential to redress the external gap represented by fewer exports than imports.

Egypt has embarked on a special program to redress the internal and external gaps in conformity with its economic and social circumstances. It proposed solutions to these problems represented by an inclination to follow balanced policies that narrow the internal gap by using the available resources in the best possible investment that brings satisfactory returns, in addition to reducing luxury expenditure. This necessarily means redressing the state budget to increase revenues and decrease expenditure on luxuries and less beneficial investments. This will help in the medium term to overcome this problem fully.

The external gap is represented by reducing visible imports of consumer and luxury goods, but within limits that do not harm the citizen's basic needs, besides cutting and rationalizing invisible imports and increasing the remittances of Egyptians working abroad.

This eventually flows into three basic elements: the state budget, the exchange rate, and the interest rate. As for the state budget, the government has taken measures to decrease government and public expenditures. Regarding the exchange rate, it was reactivated through the money market to encourage exports and decrease imports by fixing a true price for the Egyptian pound that will increase the cost of imports and decrease the cost of exports. In addition to this, the state has recently increased interest rates to encourage savings and decrease consumption. In light of constant efforts to achieve development, this means investment needs to be encouraged, which necessitates a reconsideration of supply and demand because pressuring and decreasing demand is not enough. Investment should also be encouraged to support development and increase supply. By increasing supply, the demand will be less than it is now. Regarding the state budget, these measures are represented by decreasing items included in Chapters 2 and 3 as well as investment items.

Other positive steps have also been taken to redress interest rates, reactivate the free money market, and decrease the use of foreign currency in some kinds of purchases. For example, there is a tendency to finance the private sector's debts, or part of them, from the revenues of the free money market to decrease recourse to the black market. Moreover, the money market attempts to increase demand through constant reactivation of prices.

The current IMF mission will discuss all these measures as a prelude to preparing a letter of intent if an agreement is reached. If the letter of intent is agreed upon, the expectation is to go to the Paris Club for negotiations on rescheduling arrears with the creditor countries in September.

[Correspondent Dhikra] What is the volume of Egypt's debts? What is the volume of the arrears until the end of this June? What will the situation be if we do not reach an agreement with the IMF regarding our ability to get new loans from the international financial institutions or from the friendly states?

[Makramallah] Egypt's debts are estimated at approximately $25 billion. The arrears that need to be rescheduled next year are $3.5 billion. The draft plan estimates our need from foreign elements for investment at only approximately 4.5 billion Egyptian pounds, aside from what we need for the production requirements.

The truth is that the situation is difficult, particularly as a full year has passed since the expiration of the last agreement with the IMF on 30 June 1988. However, the lack of an agreement with the IMF does not mean that we cannot get new loans. We can do this due to the distinguished relations of economic cooperation that link us with the friendly states. However, this will increase the difficulty of the borrowing conditions.

As a matter of fact, it behooves all of us to make every effort and not to spare ourselves in the interests of increased production and decreased consumption. It is through work that nations advance. A Japanese, Korean, or Taiwanese worker puts in 10 hours in the workplace every day. None of them enjoys more than 3 weeks annual holiday. His Excellency President Mubarak has said that the average Egyptian consumes approximately 200 kg of wheat per year—by far in excess of the international median.

Each of us should realize the importance of work. Furthermore, we must become less self-centered if we are to earnestly address the well-being of our future generations.

[Dhikra] Do you think an agreement with the IMF on rescheduling the arrears of government debts will make any difference to commercial debts?

[Makramallah] Commercial debts are not that much of a problem for Egypt. Forging an agreement with the IMF, however, should certainly make the obtainment of new credit facilities easier.

[Dhikra] The agreement between Egypt and the IMF expired on 30 June 1988, and negotiations have since been continuing to hammer out a new pact. Has this had any impact on the degree of bilateral cooperation between Egypt and the European nations or the United States?

[Makramallah] There has been a good deal of bilateral cooperation over the past year and despite the delay in the negotiations with the IMF, last week we signed a protocol with France whereby we will be receiving $180 million over and above 100 million francs in grants and $12 million worth of food assitance. Also, we signed a protocal with Italy under which we will be receiving approximately $340 million. And last year we signed a 3-year protocal with the EC worth $600 million.

The American economic aid program has also been in operation. Under the program, Egypt receives $815 million apart from the wheat import plan, whereby we have received $170 million annually. Recently, we benefited from an urgent loan of $150 million. In the past few days, we obtained a $3-million grant from Denmark. Moreover, negotiations are going on with Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland, and Canada to secure further loans and grants. Japan has recently come forward with grants to finance the production of reinforced iron. Naturally, we should be able to secure more favorable borrowing terms in the event of an agreement with the IMF.

[Dhikra] With Egypt's return to the Arab League and by extension to all League-affiliated economic and financial bodies and revived hopes for a new Arab economic unity, how do you think this will translate in terms of Egypt's relations with Arab funds?

[Makramallah] As for regional funds, talks are under way with the Kuwaiti Fund, which is about to provide finance for a number of projects in Egypt. Also imminent is an agreement with the Abu Dhabi Fund to make available $75 million to reclaim some 150,000 feddans. A mission of the Saudi Fund is due in Cairo shortly to explore the possibility of funding new Egyptian projects.

Regarding Arab League financing corporations, we have secured two loans from the Arab Monetary Fund to support the Egyptian balance of payments. A $21-million loan agreement was signed last week. I must say that Arab financing corporations offer easier credits terms than their international counterparts.

[Dhikra] Talks were held recently to reactivate the Gulf corporation to support the Egyptian economy. What has been done in this regard?

[Makramallah] The issue has been raised. This corporation was established in the seventies with a $2-billion support from the Gulf states. We have the right to withdraw $380 million. Negotiations are continuing in this regard. This corporation is a revolving fund, which means we have the right to borrow from it what we repay to it, and so on.

The corporation extends loans on very easy terms. We have repaid parts of what we borrowed and hope the negotiations will end up with the reactivation of the corporation, especially since the sisterly states understand the importance of this corporation for supporting the Egyptian economy.

[Dhikra] Will there be contacts for economic cooperation with Syria and Libya in the near future?

[Makramallah] As far as I know, no contacts on economic cooperation have begun with Syria and Libya. However, something like this may be possible in the future.

[Dhikra] There are current contacts between Egypt and the World Bank to finance a number of projects and restructure loans. What has been achieved in this regard? What is the situation with other sources of international funding?

[Makramallah] There is constant cooperation with the World Bank to finance new projects. Two weeks ago we obtained a $40-million loan to build warehouses and agricultural production requirements. A week ago we obtained a loan to finance the Dimyatta electricity station. There is currently a World Bank delegation in Egypt to study the possibility of changing the terms of four loans previously received by Egypt with a total value of $460 million. They have approved our proposals. They also showed interest in cofinancing cement projects with Egypt.

We recently obtained two loans from the African Development Bank. The Islamic Development Bank extended $10 million to finance the electricity sector. It was also agreed with the European Investment Bank to activate the Egyptian export industries.

Negotiations with the World Bank to obtain restructuring loans are still continuing because the World Bank partly links the IMF's approval of rescheduling debts to the Bank's approval of these loans, within what is called "macroeconomic policies."

[Dhikra] A final return to the IMF. Why did Egypt not get the second IMF tranche to support the balance of payments as stipulated by the previous agreement with the IMF?

[Makramallah] The IMF loans remain limited regardless of their volume. The most important thing the IMF provides is the possibility of negotiating a rescheduling

of arrears. The IMF's acceptance of our reform programs is a competency certifcate for the economy that enables us to make our payments more easily and get development loans, thus eventually leading to an improvement in the performance of the national economy.

Finally, I would like to say that the circumstances are difficult, but they are soluable. They need further effort and seriouness from our part and further understanding of our situation by the friendly states.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interview on Ties With Egypt Cited

JN1706150289 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 16 Jun 89 p 7

[By Hamid Zaydan]

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD conducted a 3-hour political dialogue with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in his tent outside Tripoli. The frank and open dialogue covered substantial ground. Col al-Qadhdhafi sounded as if he were thinking aloud. The dialogue covered all Arab issues, with an accent on relations between Libya and Egypt.

On his meeting with Egypt's President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the Casablanca emergency summit, the Libyan leader said it was constructive and successful. Both were in agreement regarding all the issues that came up during the meeting. The most important point they agreed on was their definition of the actual and potential enemies of the Arab nation. The Libyan leader said that he and the Egyptian president then reached agreement on the national and supranational strategic objectives and that each country is entitled to decide on its internal affairs as it sees fit. Both also agreed to refrain from meddling in each other's domestic concerns. President Mubarak stressed the need to prevent subversive elements infiltrating Egypt with Al-Qadhdhafi emphasizing his concern to block any transgressions against the security of Egypt.

Col al-Qadhdhafi said that the two discussed some border incidents. The common goodwill, however, meant the two were convinced these were mere isolated incidents. Both will work to make sure they will not recur and that should there be other such events they will be treated as isolated incidents and that need not be construed as state policy. Accordingly, Al-Qadhdhafi emphasized that he respects and accepts President Mubarak's interpretation, adding that such an approach should keep bilateral relations on an even keel. Both presidents shared a concern for continued good and brotherly ties between their countries.

The Libyan leader said that having reached agreement with the Egyptian president on these points, the two then worked out a joint plan of action inspired by a saying of Prophet Muhammad: "Conduct your affairs with discretion."

The Libyan president said that his conversation with President Mubarak was conducted within the framework of the prophet's saying and in full frankness and that it dealt with all the subjects that were raised, beginning with bilateral relations and ending with the Arab issues connected to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the civil war in Lebanon, the future of inter-Arab relations, and the effect of the Iraq-Iran war. The two presidents exchanged their viewpoints on the solutions proposed for those issues, which are related to the fate of joint Arab action and the issue of Arab unity, since it is the Arab nation's hope and strategic objective.

Regarding relations between Egypt and Libya, Libya's Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asserted that the relation between Egypt and Libya has gone beyond the boundaries of solidarity. He said: We can be in solidarity with Nicaragua, Namibia, and Ireland in their struggles against world colonialism, but relations between Egypt and Libya go beyond this stage to the stage of unity. Al-Qadhdhafi said that Egypt, Libya, and Sudan are one country and that the possibility of establishing a single state among those three countries is possible and necessary because unity has become a necessity.

Al-Qadhdhafi explained his viewpoint on the issue of unity. He said that people can no longer say immediate unity is something that can be postponed so that it can be prepared for and that it must go through different phases, experiences, studies, preparations, and other things.

Al-Qadhdhafi said: If this was accepted 20 years ago, it can no longer be accepted to be repeated by some people after the 1 September Revolution, whose 20th anniversary we are celebrating these days. Undoubtedly, the past 20 years have given us the experience and the adequate opportunity to study and research things. So, if we talk about immediate unity now, we will not be hasty or with little experience or knowledge as some people used to claim whenever we talked about unity, or whenever they wanted to use an excuse to renege on the unity agreements we reached with them.

Regarding Al-Qadhdhafi's discussions with Mubarak, he said that President Mubarak expressed his opinion on the subject of relations between Egypt and Sudan and said they are special relations that cannot be subjected to attempts of outbidding by some people or to party one-upmanship because those relations are a pan-Arab issue and not a party issue while some people must understand that we are not a side in party differences.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that, after that, he agreed with President Mubarak to reopen the borders and resume civilian flights between Egyptian and Libyan cities. He said that this was achieved last week and that an agreement to run buses for passengers between the two countries was reached recently.

Concerning the travel of Libyans to Egypt, Al-Qadhdhafi said he asked the Libyans to travel to Egypt, live there, own property, and buy and sell. He also told them that Egypt is their country just like Libya, and they should protect Egypt and its security the way they protect Libya's security.

He said he told them: Walk in Egypt's streets "bareheaded." Al-Qadhdhafi explained the expression "bareheaded" by saying that in Libyan dialect it means that they walk free, happy, and safe because Egypt is their country and they are not aliens in it.

Regarding his conversation with President Mubarak on past political differences between Egypt and Libya, he said: Our position toward world colonialism, international Zionism, and the Israeli and American enemy has not changed, nor has our position toward the "David stable" and its political practices changed. We are bound by our pan-Arab duty to stand by the side of Egypt and help it when such help is requested from us because Egypt is the Arab nation's mainstay and real power. It is the one that fights and sacrifices whenever the Arab nation requires that. Egypt made large sacrifices when it was requested to do so, and it offered a great deal. We should now stand by its side so that it will return to its Arab nation and end the estrangement existing between it and the Arab nation.

Al-Qadhdhafi said: Mubarak believes in Arab unity and Egypt's Arabism. Following my meeting with him in Casablanca, I can state that I trust him because he is honest and sincere. We must stand by his side for the sake of supporting Egypt, its power and its role. It pleases me to say that President Mubarak believes in Egypt's role and this is sufficient for me to stand by his side and put my hand in his.

A few days ago, Col al-Qadhdhafi delivered a speech in which he announced he will remain the only hawk and that he welcomes peace if it came at the hands of doves. He explained that by saying that what is important is upholding principles, Arab rights, and the Arab nation's strategic aims.

He said there are hawks and doves among the Zionists, who might differ on the timing and method, but agree on the strategic aims. We the Arabs should believe in the strategic aim and work for it even if the means are different.

He said: For instance, if a demonstration for certain demands is staged in the streets of an Arab capital, such a demonstration can be a means of pressure on the Zionist enemy itself and a means of support for the Arabs. Coordinating and distributing roles and integrating all Arab capabilities and methods can be influential as long as they are all channeled toward the strategic goal.

He said that the Arab citizen everywhere is now required to shoulder the problems and issues of his greater homeland to prevent the retreats and concessions in our near and remote future at the expense of our Arab homeland and countries that would constitute political and geographic gains to the Zionist enemy.

Regarding the new Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] between Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic, he said: It has an economic goal as they say. We hope that it will also have a political function, because economics can give a boost to politics and to national potential. The state that does not produce its own bread cannot possess its own decisionmaking. We can look forward to fruitful cooperation among the Gulf Cooperation Council, the ACC, and the Arab Maghreb Union. He said that tomorrow's world will not pay much attention to small states. The establishment of a united Europe in 1992 will stop economic and trade dealings and contacts among several Arab states and Europe, because Europe will only deal with an equal partner in economic production and trade. He gave an example, saying: If Tunisia wants to export oil to France, then a European oil-producing state would object to this, and if Libya wants to export oranges to Italy, another European state that produces oranges would then object to this.

He said: It is necessary for the Arabs to have a large grouping capable of dealing with a united Europe. We have called for this several times. However, nothing of this kind has been achieved while Europe is proceeding toward unity. We should find a common formula that will enable us in the future to safeguard our Arab economic interests with Europe or any other grouping in the world.

On the future of U.S.-Libyan relations, he said: We hope that U.S. President George Bush will behave differently from Reagan. I am aware that President Bush is being careful to establish his own objective and serious approach. This is something that we welcome and believe could be as useful to us as it is to the United States. This could also save the United States from Reagan's adventures in which he involved the United States. Among these adventures were his armed aggressions against Libya and against my own house with the objective of killing me. Reagan has failed to achieve his personal objectives of killing me, and his political objectives of superimposing his opinions on us and his aggression against Libya's rights to sovereignty. He has also failed to dictate his will on Libya's will thanks to the armed Libyan people's steadfastness, who downed Reagan's planes in the sea. He added that Bush is more

prudent and knowledgeable than his prececessor, and we hope that he will utilize this to change Reagan's hostile policy against us. We would welcome such a development.

Al-Qadhdhafi Cited on Relations With U.S.

LD1806185489 Tripoli JANA in English 1721 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—[Passage omitted] The leader of the revolution talked about the new American Administration. He firstly asserted that the policy of Great Jamahiriyah will not change because it is a defensive policy based on self defence and nonintervention in the internal affairs of others. He referred to the hostile stances of the Reagan administration against the Libyan Arab people.

The leader made clear that until now we are resisting and rejecting intervention in our territorial waters in the Gulf of Sidra which became Libyan as decided by all the world countries. He pointed out that any further aggression on the Gulf of Sidra will be an aggression on the Libyan Arab territory.

He expressed the hope that the new American Administration learned the lesson from the calamities, losses and the vile and stupid actions of the former American Administration. He pointed to the losses that administration inflicted on the prestige of America and the American people who are not ready to receive more coffins of their sons killed at all fronts.

He said, "I believe that the new American Administration is wise and learned from past lessons. I believe Bush is a nonhostile political personality and endeavours to serve America and solve its internal problems benefiting in that from Gorbachev's perestroyka which provides an example to the major countries in concerning itself with solving their internal problems and internal construction."

He said that the Soviet Union is taking a positive course in building up itself from within and solving its internal problems and abandoning many of its external problems amongst them the withdrawal from Afghanistan. (?We) think that Gorbachev is providing America with a good example for it to withdraw from abroad and concern itself with its internal problems, unemployment, trade deficit and combat against disease like AIDS and cancer. I believe that the new American President will concern himself with the internal problems of America and leave the adventures which brought to America in the past destruction and bad reputation.

The leader of the revolution welcomed this direction and this administration saying that "we believe Libya will be afterwards to set up balanced relations between the Soviet Union and between America and at the end we will befriend those who befriend us and be enemy to those who are hostile to us and our finger is still on the trigger." [passage omitted]

Sudan

Military Coup Attempt Reportedly Foiled

LD1806174289 Khartoum SUNA in English 1718 GMT 18 Jun 89

["Urgent—Sudan/Military Coup"—SUNA headline]

[Text] Khartoum, June 18 (SUNA)—A military coup attempt has been discovered and all its elements arrested today a military communique by the Armed Forces General Command said today. It said all officers and civilians pro to the former regime have been put under arrest. It said these officers are pro to the former President Ja'far al-Numayri. It said investigations are currently underway with the arrested persons. The command said the Army is safe and united and will continue to protect the democratic regime, the choice of the people. It gave no further details.

General Command Statement

LD1806175389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: We have just received the following statement from the General Command. A coup attempt planned by some May element [pro Al-Numayri] officers and civilians aimed to overthrow the government, seize power, abolish democracy, and restore to power the deposed Ja'far al-Numayri has been foiled. Meanwhile all the officers whose names were on the list [not further specified] have been suspended and put under military arrest. Interrogation will start immediately.

The General Command stresses that the Armed Forces are a national institution whose duty it is to defend the homeland and the right of its people with regard to the system they have chosen. The General Command also stresses that the loyalty and unity of the Armed Forces are the guarantee and the safety valve of security and stability of the homeland. Long live free Sudan. Long live the Sudanese people. Long live the Armed Forces. Victory comes from God.

Prime Minister Briefs Council of State Members

LD1806180689 Khartoum SUNA in English 1728 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum June 18 (SUNA)—Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi has briefed the members of the Council of State on the current issues in the country which include the budget, peace talks, living conditions, and security situation. Al-Mahdi in a news statement today said that the new budget scheduled to be approved shortly by the parliament will lead to improvement in

the financial, monetary, and economic situation. He said that measures would be taken for overcoming crisis in essential commodities. Regarding the peace process Al-Mahdi pointed out that he briefed the council members on the outcome of the recent talks between the peace delegation and the rebel movement.

Darfur Governor on 'Zone of Military Operations'
EA1806152489 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1245 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Excerpts] The governor of Darfur region has said that declaring Darfur to be a zone of military operations will enable the Armed Forces to curb all forms of foreign intervention in the region, particularly by Chadian forces which cross the border to conduct armed robbery.

He said the Armed Forces were heavily concentrated in the border area to combat any infiltration by the Chadians. It had been this concentration which had led to the withdrawal of all the Chadian forces which had entered the region recently. He said there was no Libyan military presence in the region.

Dr al-Tijani al-Sisi denied recent reports that he had resigned due to the deterioration of security in the region. He said: As an administrator it would have been uncharacteristic of me to resign, as the situation demands greater effort, not resignation.

Referring to the tribal reconciliation conference in the region being held in al-Fashir, he expressed the hope that it would bring about a full agreement between the Arab and the Fur delegations this week. [passage omitted]

After meeting State Council member Mr Mirghani al-Nasri, who returned recently from al-Fashir, his excellency said all the parties were eager for reconciliation and to reach an agreement in this regard. This had become clear during the conference.

Iraq Reportedly Agrees To Reinforce Army
NC1806155389 Paris AFP in English 1538 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, June 18 (AFP)—Iraq has agreed to reinforce Sudan's Army and Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates may follow suit, according to the head of Sudan's Democratic Unionist Party, Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani.

Libya and Saudi Arabia have both announced they were increasing their military aid to the government of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

He said Friday during a meeting of his party, a major component of the governing coalition, that Iraq's government made the commitment in a written message to Minister of Defense Mubarak 'Uthman Rahman.

He said the new arms would not be used against the southern insurgency but only to enable the government to defend itself if the 6-year-old civil war continues.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) led by John Garang has been fighting for the abolition of Islamic law. The southerners are mainly Christian and animist, whereas northern Sudanese are mostly Muslim. A cease-fire has been in force for the past 6 weeks.

Rebel Commentary Views Cease-Fire Extension
EA1706081589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Hello listeners. As you may have heard, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] commander in chief has extended the cease-fire by another 2 weeks. This move is aimed at achieving peace in our country. However, since the start of the cease-fire, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has not made a single positive move toward implementing the Sudanese peace initiative. This tells us that Al-Sadiq al-Madhdi is not interested in ending the war peacefully. He only wants to deceive the Sudanese people and the whole world into thinking that it is the SPLA which is not interested in ending the war.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the head of the government, has been given enough chances to promote a peaceful solution, without showing any appreciation. Therefore, we would like you to decide which of the warring parties is not interested in peace. When we gave Al-Sadiq's government a 2-week extension to the original 1-month cease-fire, Al-Mahdi bombed SPLA-controlled areas. He bombed Ikotos, Torit, and other areas.

Finally, I would like to say that unity is the only solution to Sudan's problems. Without unity, no problem can ever be solved, no development can be achieved. The country will be doomed. Disunity among the people of Sudan is what makes Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi feel that he is very strong. Worst of all, it is the cause of all the problems we are facing today. I would like to repeat once again that the SPLA commander in chief has allowed these 2 extra weeks in order to give Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi another chance to implement the Sudanese peace initiative and allow relief food and medicine to flow to the suffering masses of our country.

Kuwait

Iranian Navy Reportedly To Free 6 Nationals

LD1706141989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1140 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] Kuwait, June 17 (KUNA)—Iran Saturday agreed to set free six Kuwaiti nationals, held for sometime by the Iranian Navy, and to hand them over to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran in the immediate future.

The stance was officially conveyed to Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi by charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy here Javad Torkabadi when the former received the Iranian diplomat at his office today.

An official Foreign Ministry source said following the meeting that the Iranian charge d'affaires "has promised concerned parties in Tehran would very soon turn over the Kuwaiti nationals to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran to ensure their direct return to Kuwait."

The source indicated that Minister al-'Usaymi had asked the Iranian diplomat to convey thanks of the concerned authorities in the State of Kuwait to the government of Iran for its positive response which reflected interest in good neighborly relations between the two countries.

A patrol boat of the Kuwait coastal guard, with six men on board, gave chase last May to a boat carrying infiltrators in Kuwait's territorial waters. However, the patrol coast guard boat was then reported missing and it later turned out that the boat had been seized by Iranian Navy gunboats.

Kuwait has since made formal approaches to the Iranian government for release of the six Kuwaiti nationals held by Tehran.

The Foreign Ministry source stated that instructions had been given to the Kuwaiti [words indistinct] the Iranian capital to follow up the matter with the concerned authorities in Tehran to ensure a speedy return of the detained nationals to Kuwait.

Coast Guard Members Released

LD1906110689 Kuwait KUNA in English 0830 GMT 19 Jun 89

[By Bandar al-Shallahi]

[Text] Kuwait, June 19 (KUNA)—Six Kuwaiti coast guards returned home last night after being detained for 40 days by the Iranian naval authorities. The six, all in civil clothing, looked in good condition as they were greeted by their relatives at Kuwait International Airport. They were also received by Director of the coast-guards Department Colonel Ghazi al-Umar and chief of security at the airport Lt. Col. Faisal al-Yasin.

Col. al-Umar told KUNA that this simple incident could happen between any two neighboring countries and expressed joy over the happy ending.

One of the detained (?coast guards corporal) 'Abdul Rahman Halal thanked the Kuwaiti officials for their efforts which led to the release of the six coast guards.

The release of the Kuwaiti vessel crew comes in reply to a request by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to the Iranian authorities on freeing the six guards for humanitarian reasons.

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives 18 Jun

LD1806165789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1441 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Kuwait, June 18 (KUNA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived here today, (?heading) his country's delegation to the meetings of the standing Afro-Arab Cooperation Committee which will be opened here tomorrow.

Al-Shar' was received by Kuwait Deputy Premier [and] Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman al-Shahin and other senior officials and diplomats.

In an arrival statement, Al-Shar' told KUNA he was certain that his highness the amir and the country's officials have set the stage to secure success for such a meeting which is aimed at fostering Arab ties with the African countries.

Al-Shar' said his country has extended all possible support to the representatives of the Supreme Arab Committee on Lebanon, and will continue to help the committee achieve its goals in solving the Lebanese crisis.

Welcomed by Foreign Minister

JN1806182389 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Kuwait this afternoon to participate in the work of the 10th session of the permanent ministerial committee for Arab-African cooperation, which will start tomorrow—Monday. Al-Shar' was received at Kuwait International Airport by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs; senior Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry officials; and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Kuwait and the Syrian Embassy staff.

Press Censorship Said To Remain in Force

JN1806155889 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Jun 89 pp 13, 26

[Interview with Information Minister Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah by Yusuf Muhammad al-Sumayt in Kuwait—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Al-Sumayt] Are you contemplating a review of press censorship? When do you think is the right time for such a decision, especially given that our papers are virtually carbon copies of each other?

[Al-Sabah] Censorship does not dictate to you that you should be carbon copies of each other. To my knowledge, Kuwaiti papers are not mirror images of each other. Each has a technical and information policy of its own without outside interference. Each newspaper has its own features and outlook on issues. If there should be similarities of stories and pictures in some newspapers, this is because papers around the world and not just in Kuwait depend for their news and pictures on news agencies and other sources. Thus censorship has no control over the material. Censorship will remain in force to keep our publications free from impurities. The censor is there to suppress whatever is deemed likely to undermine our national unity or compromise our relations with our neighbors or friends. Has a censor excised anything other than such material? I do not think for one moment that it falls within the objectives of our press to undermine or tamper with our national unity. Neither is it conceivable that our press would want to sour our relations with our friends. [passage omitted]

Industry Minister Returns From Poland 16 Jun

LD1606185789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1743 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Kuwait, June 16 (KUNA)—Minister of Commerce and Industry Faysal 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Khalid returned home Friday, after paying an official visit to Poland June 10-14.

During his five-day visit, Al-Khalid conferred with Polish Premier Mieczyslaw Rakowski and other senior officials in the trade and industry fields. He also visited Poznan international fair.

The visit came at the invitation of Minister of Economic Cooperation With Abroad Dominik Jastrzebskim.

Al-Khalid had participated at the 13th meeting of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] trade cooperation committee and also at the 11th meeting of the board of specifications and measures, held in Riyadh June 10.

Comments on Visit

LD1706162889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1516 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] Kuwait, June 17 (KUNA)—Poland has offered Kuwait a number of joint ventures in the food processing, oil industry and tourism fields and is eager to sign soon two accords with Kuwait on protection of investments and ending double taxation, according to a Kuwaiti official Saturday.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Faysal al-Khalid, who returned yesterday from a five-day visit to Warsaw, said today that during meetings with several Polish officials, including Prime Minister Mieczyslaw F. Rakowski, the Polish side offered a number of projects for Kuwaiti financing, including food processing, oil industry, tourism and hoteliering.

The Polish prime minister, Al-Khalid added, expressed great interest in developing all-around cooperation with Kuwait, particularly in the trade and economic fields, in accordance to the understanding reached during his recent visit to Kuwait and his talks with Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah.

"I felt every interest from the Polish premier to open doors before Kuwaiti investments in Poland in the various sectors," Minister Khalid said.

During his official visit to Warsaw, made at the invitation of Ministers for External Economic Cooperation Dominik Jastrzebskim this June 10-14, the Kuwaiti official said the Polish side had shown interest in expanding cooperation with Kuwait in the financial services sector in line with the planned reform measures affecting economic performance and the new political orientation.

Poland also wishes to increase its presence in the Kuwaiti and Gulf markets, either by undertaking some local development schemes or in the services field by supplying trained hands in the health, computer, technical services, and the electricity and water spheres, he indicated.

Al-Khalid said the joint technical commission between the two countries would be meeting towards the end of this year to review existing agreements in the technical cooperation fields with the aim of revitalizing them.

He hoped that two bilateral accords on encouragement and protection of investments and ending dual taxation, which had been initially approved by the two countries, would be passed in their final form.

Regarding trade exchange between Kuwait and Poland, the minister described its present volume as "modest" and hoped that through new accords and exchange of visits it will be raised to higher levels for the benefit of both sides.

Minister al-Khalid, who attended the Poznan international fair and travelled to the shipbuilding yards in Gdansk, thanked the Polish authorities for preparations made and the warm hospitality accorded him during his visit to Poland.

PDRY

Syria's Al-Zu'bi, Delegation Arrive 17 Jun

JN1706185089 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] [Syrian] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his delegation arrived in Aden at 1715 today on an official and cordial visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man.

Leading those welcoming the prime minister at Aden Airport was Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and prime minister. Following the official welcome ceremonies, Al-Zu'bi shook hands with those at hand to receive him members of the YSP Political Bureau, members of the YSP Central Committee, members of the of Supreme People's Presidium, the ministers, and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps in Aden.

The prime minister made a statement to journalists upon arrival in which he said: Our visit to the PDRY comes within the framework of the close, brotherly relations between Syria and the PDRY, as well the joint desire continuously and increasingly to bolster and promote these relations in all fields. Al-Zu'bi added: Our relations with the PDRY brothers have always been distinguished and special, stemming from the existing brotherhood and mutual confidence between the brotherly leaderships and peoples in both countries.

The minister said: We in Syria and the PDRY are one Arab people constantly yearning for increased cooperation, solidarity, and struggle to continue the march of economic and social development, and to promote the lives of our masses and achieve our pan-Arab objectives and aspirations in order to consolidate joint pan-Arab action in achieving the unity of the Arab nation and confronting the challenges of Zionism and international imperialism.

Al-Zu'bi added: It is a pleasure to visit Aden at the kind invitation of Prime Minister brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man and to meet with him and with brother officials. This gives us an important opportunity to exchange views and ideas and hold brotherly talks on various issues that consolidate and promote our bilateral relations and joint struggle.

Concluding his statement, Al-Zu'bi said: We are very happy with this meeting and this warm brotherly welcome.

Al-Zu'bi and Nu'man drove off in an official motorcade to the guest palace in Aden, where the prime minister will reside during his visit.

The prime minister is accompanied in this visit by Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Eng Yusuf al-Ahmad, minister of transportation, Muhammad Salman, minister of information; and Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade.

Reception Held 17 Jun

EA1806202389 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] This evening, Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Political Bureau member and prime minister, hosted a reception in honor of Brother Eng Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the Syrian prime minister, and his delegation. The reception was attended by members of the Central Committee and the Supreme People's Council Presidium and by ministers. Brother Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the Syrian prime minister, arrived in Aden this evening for an official visit to last several days at the invitation of his brother, Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Political Bureau member and prime minister.

Premiers Meet 18 Jun

JN1806183989 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi this morning met with Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY]. Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, PDRY foreign minister, attended. Conversation during that meeting dealt with improving bilateral cooperation and certain questions on Arab and international arenas.

Following that, the official round of talks between the Syrian side, headed by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and the PDRY side, headed by Prime Minister Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, began at the Supreme Peoples Council Presidium building. This session was attended on the Syrian side by Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Eng Yusuf Ahmad, minister of transport; Muhammad Salman, minister of information; and Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade. On the PDRY side, the session was attended by Salih Abu-Bakr Ibn-Husaynun, deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals; Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of foreign affairs; Dr 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman, minister of industry, trade, and supply; Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, minister of culture and information; Salih 'Abdallah Muthanna, minister of transport; and Dr Ahmad 'Ali Muqbil, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform.

At the beginning of the session, Dr Nu'man welcomed the prime minister and his delegation. He stressed that this visit is received by the PDRY—party, government, and people—with particular importance in view of the sincere brotherly relations that bind the two fraternal countries. He asserted the PDRY leadership's interest in strengthening and improving economic and social relations with the Syrian Arab Republic so that they can reach the level of the political relations between them.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi asserted that the distinguished and special march of cooperation that left its imprint on relations between the two fraternal countries will always compel us to continue its objectives in every field. He pointed out that the current Arab situation demands a sense of pan-Arab responsibility and a concentration on anything that makes Arab solidarity effective against the Arab nation's main enemy, represented in Zionism and its allies. He also asserted that Syria—under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad—is very interested in making the Arab position united vis-a-vis the challenges facing our Arab nation and in directing the nation's resources and energies in one direction in a manner that will improve its capability to confront these challenges.

Al-Zu'bi said he is confident that the resources available for both countries will allow them to entrench all forms of economic and social cooperation and base that cooperation on a deep, strong foundation of political cooperation.

During the same session, the two sides reviewed the subjects scheduled for discussion and discussed means to improve and strengthen ties of bilateral cooperation. [passage omitted]

Ministers from both sides held working meetings to prepare the protocols that will be signed on the conclusion of that visit.

Al-Zu'bi Meets Al-'Attas

EA1806211889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] This evening at the Presidium Secretariat, Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, met Brother Eng Mahumd al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Syrian Council of Ministers, and his delegation, who conveyed to him the greetings of his brother the Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad.

Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas welcomed Engineer al-Zu'bi and his delegation, with whom he reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries in different fields and ways of developing them within the framework of their common interest to strengthen them to serve the interests of the two fraternal peoples and the common cause of the Arab nation. They also dealt with issues in the Arab arena and the two countries' stances towards them, as well as a number of other issues of common interest.

The brother Presidium chairman stressed that the Yemeni-Syrian relations were strong and fraternal and that strengthening them by means of joint cooperation in various vital fields would add a new page to the record of those fraternal relations, thus strengthening inter-Arab cooperation and action. He said this visit to the PDRY [People's Democratic Republic of Yemen] and Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man's talks with his brother would give new impetus to the entrenchment of bilateral cooperation.

For his part, Brother Mahmud al-Zu'bi said he was happy to be visiting the PDRY and with his talks and meetings with Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man. He stressed that these contacts represented an advanced extension of the close relations between the two countries and the trust existing between the leaders and peoples of the two countries. They were also an expression of the common desire and interest to strengthen relations in many vital areas. He expressed high appreciation for the fraternal stances of the PDRY in support of the steadfast Syrian people against imperialist and Zionist threats during the past years. This was an expression of the depth of relations between the two revolutions of Syria and Yemen and the unity of their common struggle.

Brother al-'Attas asked him to convey his fraternal greetings to his brother President Hafiz al-Asad.

The meeting was attended by a number of members from the Yemeni side which participated in the talks and the director of the office of the chairman of the Presidium.

Al-'Attas Receives Message

JN1906064889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Aden—At 1800 yesterday, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], received Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the accompanying delegation. The PDRY delegation participating in the talks attended the meeting.

Al-Zu'bi conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to President al-'Attas on bilateral relations and the situation in the region. He also conveyed President al-Asad's good wishes and greetings to President al-'Attas and the fraternal Yemeni people. Al-Zu'bi also stressed the depth of the strong fraternal relations between the two states and the continuous desire to develop the scope of common cooperation in all fields as well as Syria's concern to develop these relations in order to achieve the common objectives and to reinforce the potentials and capabilities of the two sisterly states to confront challenges.

President al-'Attas asked Al-Zu'bi to convey his greetings to President Hafiz al-Asad, thanking him for the brotherly letter and his concern to develop fraternal relations with the PDRY. The talks, during the meeting, dealt with a number of issues of mutual concern.

Czechoslovakia Delivers Relief Aid

EA1606073889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] A Czechoslovak aircraft has arrived at Aden International Airport carrying aid in the form of food, blankets, and clothes for those affected by the natural disaster which befell our country recently. The aid was received by Brother Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad, chairman of the committee for receiving relief aid, and the Czechoslovakian ambassador in Aden.

Cooperation Agreement With GDR Party Signed

EA1606145289 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] A cooperation agreement was signed at noon today in the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee building between the Yemeni Socialist Party and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany for the years 1989-1992. It was signed on behalf of our country by Brother 'Abd-al-Razzaq Sha'if, member of the Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Central Committee; and on behalf of the Democratic German side by Comrade (Konter Perr), member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and head of the Department of International Relations in the Central Committee of the party.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Minister Secures Austrian Weapons

LD1506181489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Vienna, 15 June, (SPA)—His Royal Highness Amir Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, at the end of his official visit to Austria this morning initialled an agreement securing some equipment and military hardware manufactured by Austria, which is needed by the Saudi Armed Forces, with the value to be paid by Saudi petrochemicals. The agreement was signed on the Austrian side by His Excellency Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock.

Interior Ministry's Instructions for Pilgrims

LD1806125989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1059 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Mecca, 18 Jun (SPA)—The Interior Ministry requests the brothers who are coming to the Kingdom to fulfill the obligations of pilgrimage [hajj] not to carry books, photographs, or leaflets of a political, propaganda, or ideological character. It also asks them not to carry drugs, because all these things are at variance with the noble aims of pilgrimage.

In a communique issued as part of the pilgrimage instructions for 1989 the ministry emphasizes that such things are totally prohibited. The ministry also expresses the hope that the guests of the merciful be given the opportunity to practice their rites in humility, and that no attempt be made to distract them from the worship for which they have come.

The Interior Ministry stresses everyone's concern to provide everything that would enable the pilgrims of the house of God to practice their rites in comfort and ease, and to prevent anything that may interfere with the atmosphere of humility and worship for which they have come.

The ministry expressed the hope that everyone will adhere and not exceed these instructions. It also stresses that whoever contravenes these rules will be punished and returned to wherever he came from.

The Interior Ministry says that whoever is found in possession of anything prohibited will be subjected to deterrent punishment and treated in accordance with the rules in force in the Kingdom without leniency or forgiveness.

The Interior Ministry affirms its responsibility for preserving the security of the pilgrims and the citizens, so that the territory of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia remains as it was and as it always will be, God willing: an oasis of good and assurance for whoever comes to visit the holy house of God and the mosque of His bountiful prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Returns From Alexandria Summit

JN1706174389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, returned home at 1330 today with God's care and protection after participating, along with his brother leaders President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, President Saddam Husayn, and King Husayn Ibn-Talal, at the meetings of the supreme council of the Arab Cooperation Council, which were held in Alexandria from 15-17 June. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Returns From Alexandria Summit
JN1706054189 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Leader President Saddam Husayn has returned to Baghdad with God's care and protection after leading the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council summit in Alexandria. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH on Summit
JN1506133789 Baghdad INA in English 1145 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 15, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad has said Iraq is full of confidence that the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit in Egypt will be an advanced step on the way of serious action to realise highest levels of coordination, cooperation and solidarity among the ACC member states.

In an editorial published here today, the daily added that the significance of the ACC meeting of Egypt stemmed mainly from the fact that those meetings would be a turning point in the march of the ACC and would have their positive outcomes clear on the Arab arena.

The ACC leaders, King Husayn of Jordan and Presidents Saddam Husayn of Iraq, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of North Yemen and Husni Mubarak of Egypt are holding a meeting, the second of its kind, in the framework of periodical meetings of the ACC summit in Alexandria to endorse organizational foundations, including formations of the ACC Secretariat General which is due to have Amman as its headquarters.

AL-THAWRAH said that the ACC summit represented a good opportunity for further consultations, coordination and fruitful interaction among the ACC leaders, and would lead to important economic and political resolutions, in the forefront of which were the decisions which would finalize the ACC structure and organize mechanism of its work to the effect of achieving its strategic objects.

The paper expected the summit to be focusing on means of boosting cooperation and coordination between the ACC on one hand, and the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union on the other, and put a strategy for cooperation between the three Arab councils and international economic gatherings.

The paper called on international and regional powers to reconsider their stances and elicit correct conclusions over the objectives and dimensions of the ACC.

It speculated that giving of the ACC emergence would contribute to passing decisions which would help to counter security, economic, political and civilizational threats against the Arab security.

AL-'IRAQ Confirms Resettlement of Kurds
JN1706182689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] The Baghdad newspaper AL-'IRAQ today confirmed that a number of Iraqi Kurds living in areas close to the border with Iran have been moved for security reasons and in order to benefit more fully from social services. This is the first Iraqi reaction to foreign reports on the forcible resettlement of a number of Kurds.

Reservations Voiced Over IAEA Report on Israel
JN1606154489 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Vienna, June 16, INA—Iraq expressed reservation over a report forwarded by Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Hans Blix to the Agency's board of governors over "Israeli" nuclear capability and threat.

Head of the Iraqi delegation to the final session of the board Dr. Rahim 'Abd-al-Katl said that the Iraqi delegation was not allowed to examine Mr. Hans Blix's report so as to make conclusions especially with regard to the formulas of guarantees that could be applied in the Middle East.

He pointed [out] that Iraq could not ignore that the best way to eliminate source of concern over presence of nuclear weapons in the region was the acceptance of complete supervision over all nuclear installations without exception.

Dr. al-Katl expressed hope that opportunity will be available to discuss the report comprehensively during the meetings of the board in September to the aim of best preparation for discussions of the general conference over the Israeli nuclear danger and capabilities. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Official Leaves for Kuwait Meetings
JN1806105189 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT .18 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 18, INA—Mr. Wisam al-Zahawi, Iraqi foreign undersecretary today left here for Kuwait to attend meetings of the Standing Committee of Afro-Arab Cooperation opening there tomorrow.

The committee's three-day meetings will tackle promoting bilateral cooperation, unifying Afro-Arab joint stances in fields of international policy and developing economic cooperation between the Arab and African countries.

Saddam Orders Salary Increase of 25 Dinars

JN1806172089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has ordered a salary increase of 25 dinars for government employees as well as military and public security personnel as of 1 July 1989.

His excellency also ordered that the increase be considered part of the basic salary and that the minimum and maximum grades be amended in accordance with the increase of 25 dinars.

This came during a 4-hour joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council, the Ba'th Party Regional Command, and the Council of Ministers under President Saddam Husayn this morning. [passage omitted]

Ari'el Resident Stabbed to Death; Curfew Imposed

TA1906044789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Excerpt] A resident of Ari'el has been found stabbed to death. His body was found last night in a deserted area not far from the Samarian settlement. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] The body of Friedrich Rosenfeld was discovered by local Arabs, who alerted the army. The knife that killed him was still in his body. Rosenfeld, a 48-year-old immigrant from the United States, was found in open country between the villages of Salfit and Buruqin in northern Samaria, just a few kilometers from Ari'el. He had come to live in the town about a year ago.

Apparently, Rosenfeld had gone hiking in the area, where he was attacked and stabbed several times. He had a binocular case and a map with him, but his pistol holster was empty when the soldiers arrived.

Villagers in the immediate area were put under curfew, as the army began a search—a search which is still continuing this morning.

During the night, the heads of Samarian settlements gathered at Ari'el for an emergency meeting, and residents of the town drove to Tel Aviv where they demonstrated outside the home of Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin until the demonstration was broken up by police. [end recording]

Ari'el leaders will meet this morning with Prime Minister Shamir at his office. The head of the Ari'el local council, Ron Nahman, blames the murder on left-wing Knesset members for inciting residents of the territories. [passage omitted]

Shamir Vows Revenge

TA1906092289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] We will avenge the blood of the man murdered in Ari'el; the instigators will be captured. This was the reaction of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir a short while ago to the murder of Steven Rosenfeld in Ari'el last night. Samaria will remain in our hands, the prime minister added. Our correspondent Gilat Levi heard his comments:

[Begin Shamir recording] This murder is another link in the bloody chain of acts of violence perpetrated against us in Israel by assassins and rioters who believe that with such acts, they will wipe out our settlement and entrenchment in this land. Israel's security forces will uproot this violence with an iron fist. The murderers of this Ari'el resident will be caught and punished. The acts of the instigators and the schemers will be to no avail. [end recording]

Shamir Urged To Take 'Action' Against Sharon

TA1806101989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jun 89 p 8

[Report by Andy Goldberg]

[Excerpt] Aides to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir are pressing for drastic action against Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon after his attack on the premier in London on Thursday night.

Sources close to Shamir commented that Sharon's recent statements prove that he is motivated by personal rather than ideological factors. "Maybe we have to amputate the rotten limb which is infecting the rest of the healthy body," said an adviser to Shamir. But most of the prime minister's aides are opposed to sacking Sharon for his statements.

"Yet there is a limit to everything," one source said yesterday. "If Sharon keeps up his attacks, Shamir will have to take drastic action." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 18 June, in a similar report by Pe'erli Shahar on pages 1 and 2, adds: "Yesterday 'AL HAMISHMAR learned that if Sharon does not cancel the invitations he has sent to Likud Central Committee members summoning them for a meeting on 2 July, the prime minister will exercise his perogative and dismiss Sharon."]

Shahal on Conditions for Talks With PLO

TA1906051389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Energy Minister Moshe Shahal says that under certain circumstances Israel would have to speak to the PLO. Shahal was speaking in Tel Aviv last night, where he placed the conditions for such a dialogue. They included the PLO recognizing Israel, renouncing terror, and pledging to make no more demands on Israel after a final settlement. Le'a Zinder has more:

[Begin recording] [Zinder] Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said last night that territorial compromise was the only true basis for a settlement between Israel and the Palestinians, though he stressed that Israel would never return to the pre-1967 borders.

Shahal was the guest speaker at the opening of the 12th annual meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology at Tel Aviv University.

Shahal went on to say that under certain circumstances Israel would have to begin speaking with the PLO:

[Shahal] I am speaking on my behalf. It is my political as well as psychological conviction that there is a necessity to talk to the enemy and foe, and not only to the friend and ally. This course of history may lead us to inevitable negotiation with the worst of our enemies. Yes, even

with the PLO, provided that certain prerequisites are met, and I would like to specify those, because it is very important. I think that, and I will be in favor of, a dialogue with any Palestinian who will agree to recognize the right of Israel to exist, agree to negotiate on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338, renounce terror and violence of any kind, and agree that in a final status and solution there will be no future demands. I think that any Palestinian who will agree to those conditions will be a legitimate partner to negotiate with. [applause]

[Zinder] Shahal added that 'Arafat's PLO has become more of a ground-oriented organization, with its backing in the West Bank and Gaza, and less of a coalition of organizations which it had been previously.

[Shahal] 'Arafat of today is able to maneuver without the backing of Hawatimah and Habash. I would like to hope that this change is for real, and not just a tactical move, but certainly a strategic change in their attitude. [end recording]

PLO Demands Locals Participate in U.S. Talks

TA1606140589 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Jun 89 p A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpt] The PLO has demanded the United States act in Israel to secure immunity for a number of Palestinian notables from the territories to enable their participation in the meetings between PLO members and the U.S. Administration.

At the same time the PLO is demanding that the level of the talks be upgraded preparatory to the implementation of the election initiative. In this way the PLO wishes to make it clear that no separation is possible between the Palestinians in the territories and the PLO leadership in Tunis.

East Jerusalem sources said that the PLO has not presented a list of names just yet, but in their estimate the people concerned are personalities such as Faysal al-Husayni and Dr Sari Nusaybah. Both men are identified with the Palestinian political leadership. [passage omitted]

Arens Interviewed on Peace Initiative, Settlement

TA1606154089 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Jun 89 pp 10, 11

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Uri'el Ben-'Ami on 13 June; place not given]

[Excerpt] [Ben-'Ami] Minister Moshe Arens, who are we really fooling? The Israeli Government says no to the PLO, but do we not talk to it through the United States or Butrus Ghali?

[Arens] It is interesting, perhaps even a subject for psychologists, why so many Israelis feel and continually say that Israel is talking with the PLO. Some claim we are also talking with the PLO directly, in secret talks which we refuse to disclose. The less daring claim that we are talking with the PLO indirectly. The truth is that we are not talking with the PLO, neither directly, nor indirectly.

[Ben-'Ami] Absolutely not?

[Arens] Absolutely. Butrus Ghali indeed proposed that we hold talks with the PLO, but not a single word was raised in the talks with Ghali concerning messages from the PLO to us, or from us to the PLO. The people with whom we talk, such as the Americans, know this and are not trying to convince us. They also do not try to place messages on the agenda with the expectation that they will hear some sort of a reaction.

Our policy is not to talk with the PLO, and this is not mere stubbornness. In our opinion, the Americans' contacts with the PLO disrupt the peace process. The PLO is the obstacle to the promotion of peace. It is conducting a campaign of terror against the Arab population in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Not a day goes by without somebody being murdered. I clearly said so to Butrus Ghali.

[Ben-'Ami] Butrus Ghali offered to mediate between Israel and the PLO, and you rejected the offer.

[Arens] Not only did we reject the offer, but we are not interested in any contact with the PLO. Had we wanted this, we would have needed no go-betweens. After all, 'Arafat is impatiently waiting to have contacts with Israel. We do not have a problem of the PLO not being prepared to talk to us. It is we who do not want to talk to them.

[Ben-'Ami] You have conferred praises on Mubarak, stating he could further peace. Mubarak wants to promote peace through the PLO. While Butrus Ghali was your guest in Israel, 'Arafat was hosted in Cairo. How can Mubarak further the peace if your reject his thesis?

[Arens] I do not think that President Mubarak believes that the only way to peace is through the PLO.

[Ben-'Ami] Could you concretely sum up Ghali's visit to Israel?

[Arens] First, I would not have played down the importance of the relaxed atmosphere and the good meal. I would say that the meeting in itself is the message. It had been a long while since the last meeting with an Egyptian official, and an atmosphere of hostility had prevailed before Ghali came. He too said that such meetings are very important.

[Ben-'Ami] On the other hand, nothing has come out of this, and Egypt has rejected a Mubarak-Shamir meeting.

[Arens] Yes, such a meeting has not materialized yet. I met with Mubarak and 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid twice. I am sure there will be additional meetings, and I believe there will also be a meeting between Mubarak and Shamir. The Egyptians also attach importance to the meetings. In other words, they do not say that the meeting has a value only if it brings about an agreement, a breakthrough, or a change in position. The meetings with the Egyptians are also a signal to the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza that the region is moving towards peace.

[Ben-'Ami] The prime minister said this week that Palestinian representatives elected in the territories will be jailed if they receive instructions from the PLO. Do you support this approach?

[Arens] Look, you do not expect me to contradict the prime minister do you?

[Ben-'Ami] I am perhaps expecting a difference in nuance or emphasis.

[Arens] No, you should not expect this from me either. This is my prime minister. There might be ministers who occasionally do not behave according to the accepted rules of collective responsibility and the submission to the authority and power of the prime minister, but I regret this and definitely refrain from doing so myself. I do not want to hint here that I have a different opinion. The prime minister's initiative speaks of electing representatives to negotiations with us. This is an important initial step, but only a first step to forming contacts, with agreement and success not at all guaranteed. It is clear that if very extreme personages are elected, bringing very radical views with them to the negotiating table, there will be no agreement. The goal of the negotiations is to bring about an agreement. We have a precedent with Egypt.

[Ben-'Ami] Could we get an answer from you, as foreign minister, why they are not already in jail today? After all, they receive instructions from the PLO now too.

[Arens] Look, this is a hypothetical question to which I cannot relate. Which people are you talking about?

[Ben-'Ami] I am referring to those who appear on the state's indictments as the people responsible for the uprising in the territories.

[Arens] No elections have been held yet, and no people have been elected. Who can tell if, after they are elected, they will commit the kind of offenses which will require us to jail them?

[Ben-'Ami] What is your opinion of Nusaybah and Al-Husayni as elected representatives?

[Arens] Look, I am not part of that electorate. I belong in the State of Israel's electorate. It is not for me to express an opinion as to who is a better a candidate than whom.

[Ben-'Ami] At the moment though, have you no specific reservations about certain candidates?

[Arens] I do not think it would be right of me to express reservations. We want free elections. Perhaps elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will influence the neighboring countries in the direction of democratization.

[Ben-'Ami] In your opinion, will the plan...

[Arens, interrupting] This is not a plan. This is an initiative by the prime minister, and it is very important to stress this fact. This initiative determines the outline for the permanent arrangements along the lines of the peace agreement we want to see in the region.

[Ben-'Ami] Does the initiative leave all options open for the negotiating table?

[Arens] Yes. It repeats our traditional stance that we are prepared for negotiations without preconditions.

[Ben-'Ami] As far as your outlook is concerned, do you support the "not-an-inch" policy?

[Arens] Look, I am aware of the importance of semantics and terminology, but I am also aware of distortions created by the choice of some words as opposed to others. I know that the expression "not-an-inch" is a weapon in the hands of the opponents of the Likud, as well as elements hostile to the State of Israel. This is an attemot to indicate inflexibility, obtuseness, unwillingess to have any compromise or to take others' interests into consideration. This is far from being true. Israel made peace with Egypt at an enormous price, a price unprecedented in the history of mankind. You will not find another example of a country withdrawing for the third time from territories it occupied as a result of aggression against it. You will not find another example of a country that has given up strategic depth and natural resources, and removed settlers. This is not compatible at all with peaceful relations. Therefore, it is almost tantamount to libel to create the image of an uncompromising and inflexible country for Israel. Still, I am convinced that military control over Judaea and Samaria is vital for the security of the State of Israel. In my opinion, there is understanding for this in the international community, not only in the Likud. Resolution 242 also talks of safe borders for the State of Israel, but an attempt is made to use it as an anti-Israeli weapon.

[Ben-'Ami] Resolution 242 stipulates safe borders together with Israeli withdrawal from territories.

[Arens] I told the Dutch foreign minister that the Netherlands does not feel the need for safe borders since it does not fear an attack. Israel, though, has a special

problem. Its territory is tiny, and we have already been attacked in the past. U.S. Secretary of State Baker spoke of "Greater Israel." He comes from Texas, the biggest U.S. state [as published], and has never visited Israel. He thinks that Israel resembles Texas in size, and that there are Israelis who want an even bigger country.

[Ben-'Ami] You are presenting Baker as a person who is totally ignorant of matters here, who is totally uninformed and unknowledgeable.

[Arens] I am not presenting him in that way. At the same time, I am convinced that seeing things in the field is best. You cannot fully grasp things before you view them with your own eyes. Some Americans I took to the Golan Heights and Samaria said upon seeing these areas: You must not give them up. They need not be in the Armored Corps to understand that it takes a tank only 25 minutes to cross the border into Jordan.

[Ben-'Ami] You have just returned from a visit to Ma'ale Adummim. What is your attitude toward the Americans' remarks on putting an end to the vision of Greater Israel?

[Arens] The Americans who are reserved about settlements sometimes do not understand what they are talking about. They think perhaps of small settlements of 20-30 people with ideological motives who belong to the radical right in Israel. They may not be aware of the fact that most of the Jewish inhabitants in Judaea and Samaria are concentrated in large settlements. Ma'ale Adummim, the largest settlement in Judaea and Samaria, is a town or a city in Israeli terms. This is a prosperous settlement where I came into contact with the beauty of Eretz Yisra'el during a visit to a high school class. This is also a settlement on the front today, with both children and civilians being on this front. Next year the high schoolers I met will have to travel to a school in Jerusalem daily, and they wonder about their safety on the road. It is encouraging to meet them, and I hope they can draw encouragement from me as well.

[Ben-'Ami] You are saying that the Americans simply do not know. Do Ma'ale Adummim and Ari'el represent settlements in general? After all, most of the Jewish settlements number about 20 families on the average.

[Arens] One should indeed make a list of settlements and grade them by their size. Still, Ari'el, for instance, has about 10,000 inhabitants.

[Ben-'Ami] This is interesting. Even the head of the Ari'el local council says the settlement has only about 8,000 people, while there are actually only 6,000 to 7,000 there.

[Arens] Perhaps, but every American I took there was astounded. They did not see there the agricultural settlement they had earlier imagined, nor an outpost with several dozens of people, but a settlement with schools, industry, and public institutions. In any event, the number of inhabitants in some settlements today is measured by the thousands, rather than by dozens.

[Ben-'Ami] I am returning to the question which you have not answered. Is my impression correct that you hesitate to give me a direct response to the question of whether or not you support the "not-an-inch" policy?

[Arens] That is not a correct impression. I am a member of the Likud, was educated in BETAR [Hebrew acronym for Herut youth movement]....

[Ben-'Ami] And you did not say that you support this "not-an-inch" policy.

[Arens] You are trying to attach this expression to me. Whoever tries to attach this motto to the Likud is trying to create for us the image of an obtuse and intransigent element which is unwilling to show understanding for others' positions.

[Ben-'Ami] You surely know that I am doing no such thing. It is the prime minister himself who pledged "not-an-inch" last week. He himself said that these words do not contradict his plan....

[Arens] All right. The words "not-an-inch" do not concern the initiative.

[Ben-'Ami] Does not this expression close options?

[Arens] Look, we are talking of the initiative at the moment, and are repeating the traditional stance of negotiations without preconditions.

[Ben-'Ami] Is the "not-an-inch" statement a precondition?

[Arens] No. This is our position, and the other side can come to the negotiating table with whatever position it has.

[Ben-'Ami] Your opposition to the PLO sounds clear and unequivocal. Have you met lately with any Palestinian residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza?

[Arens] I hold meetings with them once in awhile.

[Ben-'Ami] Could you name any?

[Arens] No. The residents of these areas are in mortal fear for their lives. There is a true danger to life, and it horrifies and troubles me. When I hold the meetings too, I am really apprehensive about the safety of the people involved. People are murdered in these areas.

[Ben-'Ami] Does not the fact that they are afraid to meet with the Israeli foreign minister mean that Israel's deterrence is decreasing?

[Arens] Look, no country, be it the strongest in the world, can fully guarantee the safety of any person where the mafia or the PLO are concerned. It is very hard to conceive of this: They burn people alive, beat them to death, hang them from telephone poles, and rape women. These things are shocking. It is difficult to guarantee the safety of peaceful residents when these people are around, receiving money from the PLO which is the richest terrorist organization.

[Ben-'Ami] Is it at least possible to stop the PLO money from arriving?

[Arens] Israel is the only democratic country in the region, and democracy means freedom. I assume it is not difficult to prevent the injection of money into Syria, but in Israel this is a problem.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you sometimes jealous of the Syrians?

[Arens] Not at all. I am a great believer in democracy, and I believe it will ultimately come to Syria as well.

[Ben-'Ami] Minister Arens, why have we not beaten the intifadah [uprising] yet? Do we not want to?

[Arens] ure we do. We are inclined toward immediate solutions. We are well-known, after all, for our "Peace Now" bloc, which is an idiotic name.

[Ben-'Ami] Is it because of "Peace Now" that the intifadah has not yet been stemmed?

[Arens] No, that is not what I said. Their name is idiotic. This bloc has intelligent people, but those who want peace at once, now, on the spot, without security, are absolutely detached from reality. We are talking about mass violence perpetrated by tens of thousands of people. One may say then: "End violence now," along the lines of "Peace Now," but this is unattainable. Whoever is out to achieve such a goal is doomed to failure. One needs patience, nerve, and a realistic assessment. This violence will not last forever.

[Ben-'Ami] You are stating, in fact, that in the meantime we are doomed to have a continuation of the intifadah.

[Arens] I am saying that we are fated to live in the Middle East, which is a violent region. The Iraqis defeated the Iranians after 8 years by using chemical warfare. Today they are killing the Kurds off. Those who use chemical weapons against the Kurds are prepared to do so against the Jews as well. Can this be termed the establishment of peace then? Still, I do not think that the Middle East will be violent forever.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you encouraged by the support for Israel of 94 U.S. senators?

[Arens] Certainly. This is an achievement for Israel and for the prime minister's initiative.

[Ben-'Ami] The senators' document also states, though, that Israel will have to consider a political concession of military achievements.

[Arens] Israelis are characterized by the compulsiveness to analyze everything and see the dark side. For instance, one of the left-wing Knesset members told me at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Baker is the one who stands behind the senators' initiative, in his opinion. This is then an example of finding the opposite explanation! The senators' letter states, among other things, that in the political negotiations Israel will be required to give up areas controlled by it as a result of wars of aggression which were launched by the Arabs against Israel, and which resulted in the killing of thousands of Israelis. It also states that the decisions adopted by Israel will influence its ability to defend itself against its Arab enemies. So, those who interpret this as demanding that Israel give up territories do not understand what was written. I am quite surprised by these interpretations. [passage omitted]

Poll Shows Support for Shamir Election Plan

TA1606141289 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 16 Jun 89 p 2

[Dahaf Institute poll]

[Text] A large majority of 64 percent of the adult Jewish population within Israel support the Shamir-Rabin political peace plan, while it is opposed by 31 percent. The plan enjoys a clear majority among voters from both the Likud and Labor camps. Likud voters support the plan by a majority of 60 percent, with 30 percent against, while the extent of support among Labor voters is even higher—79 percent for, and 17 percent opposed.

These figures are evident from a public opinion survey conducted by the Dahaf Research Institute, directed by Dr Mina Tzemah. The poll included a sample of 579 people who were interviewed in person, and who constitute a representative sample of the general Jewish populace over 18 years of age, excluding kibbutz members and residents of the territories.

The opinion that "the intifadah [uprising] cannot be totally eradicated without a political solution" and that "military measures can only lessen or somewhat contain the uprising, but not quell it" is held by 62 percent. Only 36 percent of the respondents believed that the "intifadah could be stopped solely by military means." The remainder of the interviewees refrained from any answer.

A majority of 62 percent of the public answered that Jews and Arabs who are convicted of offenses such as hurling firebombs at cars should receive identical treatment. Thirty-three percent feel that Arab rioters should receive harsher punishment than Jews, while 3 percent believe Jewish rioters should be dealt with more severely than Arabs.

The survey reveals that despite the criticism leveled at the government from both sides of the political fence, a decisive majority of 72 percent, with 23 percent in opposition, wants the broad-based government to remain in power, according to the following breakdown: Very much in favor of the unity government—18 percent; in favor of the unity government—54 percent; opposed to the unity government—18 percent; very much opposed—5 percent.

The remaining respondents did not answer.

Palestinian Infrastructure Seen as Danger

TA1806141489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jun 89 p 1

[Report by Dan Sagir]

[Text] Since the beginning of the uprising, particularly since the Palestinian National Council [PNC] convention in Algiers in November 1988, the inhabitants of the territories, in coordination with the PLO leadership outside, have been building a national institutional and organizational infrastructure uniting all political factions and splinters, and working hand in hand with the religious elements.

A senior Defense source has noted that from Israel's standpoint, the process of the political and organizational activity has been the most outstanding phenomenon in the territories over the past few months. The long-term implications of this development are far more important than terrorist acts or clashes with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, although the latter tend to attract the attention of the public and the defense establishment.

Ever since the PNC resolved to pursue this trend, all university and high school students have been united under what is known as "the Supreme Student Council." Four women's organizations have also been incorporated under one umbrella organization. The business sector has undergone a similar process as well. Thus, for example, a privately-owned dairy, which has expanded greatly, is now called "the National Dairy." Additionally, many other existing organizations have enlarged and united, and new ones have been formed.

The Defense source reported that the pro-Jordanian orientation is gradually disappearing, and the PLO mainstream currently controls most of the major organizations in the territories. The headquarters of most of the the umbrella organizations today are located in East Jerusalem. Since East Jerusalem has been annexed, however, it is more difficult for the Israeli authorities to act against these organizations, both from the legal point of view as well as from the point of view of world public opinion.

The senior source contends that the vast sums of money that have been funneled from the PLO to the territories have been routed toward the strengthening of this infrastructure. In the PLO's internal jargon, these activities are called the intifadah's [uprising] "small victories." They maintain that there is no need for major, substantial victories—such as U.S. consent to talk to the organization and the like—to keep the intifadah going. They believe that in order to persist in the intifadah and sustain the momentum of the struggle against the Israeli occupation, it is necessary to score further such small victories. These victories would be in the form of the resignation of another four Civil Administration officials; bringing about the merger of more organizations; and achieving operational cooperation with Hamas [Islamic resistance movement] and other religious bodies in the territories.

One example that illustrates what the defense source means by "a small victory" is the funeral of 'Umar al-Qasim, the veteran security prisoner who was an active member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. The procession, held last week in East Jerusalem, was a mass affair and demonstrated the Unified National Command of the Uprising's strength and supreme organizational power.

According to the security source, the fact that the police and the security forces praised themselves for the fact that the funeral passed quietly indicates utter blindness, and shows that neither the commanders nor the other bodies operating in the field have even a minimal understanding of the situation. Many DFLP activists wore red, the organization's color, and served as ushers in the huge funeral for the leader—all this under the eyes of the police, who "purchased" a short-term "calm."

The security forces' battle against the broad Palestinian national activity in the territories as a whole, and in East Jerusalem in particular, is not a problem of intelligence information claims the source. The main problem is the inability to "translate" such information into testimony that would be permissible in court or for other legal processes, which are still employing pre-intifadah tools.

East Jerusalem has been described as the center of Palestinian activity for the establishment of "national institutions" for the future state, and the place where several dozen intifadah leaders live.

IDF Patrol Clashes With Youths in Rafah 16 Jun

TA1606175989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Excerpts] A 23-year-old youth was shot and killed at the Rafah refugee camp during a violent clash with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit. The IDF spokesman reported that stones and iron bars were thrown at the soldiers who were patrolling the camp. The soldiers fired several plastic bullets at the chief instigators, causing the death of one of the rioters. [passage omitted]

One of the residents of the Tulkarm refugee camp was severely wounded in the head by a bullet. Also, a woman in the village of Si'ir in the Hebron District was wounded by a bullet which, according to local residents, was fired by Israeli civilians. The IDF is investigating the circumstance of the injury. The above roundup of incidents was reported by our correspondent Victor Nahmias.

2 More Reported Killed

TA1606192789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] A youth was killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' gunfire at the Rafah refugee camp early this evening. According to camp residents, two additional youths were killed in the course of a demonstration staged during his funeral.

The IDF spokesman announced that an IDF patrol was attacked in the camp with stones and iron bars. The soldiers on the patrol opened fire, killing Walid Yusuf Abu-'Abid, 23. His body was snatched from Al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus, and during his funeral a demonstration developed at the cemetery. According to Rafah residents, the IDF soldiers dispersed the demonstrations, in the course of which two additional youths, Amir Nafar, 29, and Ahmad Abu-'Awn, 17, were killed. According to the residents, there were also many wounded in this incident. The IDF spokesman said that these reports are being investigated. The security forces have imposed a curfew on all refugee camps in Rafah.

Investigation Ordered

TA1706114989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command, has ordered an investigation into the incidents which took place in the Rafah refugee camp yesterday. A general strike was declared in the Gaza Strip today.

Our correspondent Moti Amir points out that three residents were killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire in Rafah yesterday. Three others were wounded.

The IDF spokesman reported that an IDF patrol opened fire after being attacked with stones and iron bars.

Local residents reported 30 wounded. The investigation continues.

Soldiers Obeyed Orders

TA1706134489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] This morning, Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command and the commander of the Gaza Strip region, toured the Rafah refugee camp to investigate the progression of events yesterday. An initial debriefing indicates that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers acted according to orders. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the debriefing also indicates that the camp residents acted violently against the IDF soldiers, attacking them with iron bars. The soldiers had to fire plastic and rubber bullets to defend themselves against the rioters. The Rafah refugee camp is under curfew.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Riot in Gaza Jail 16 Jun

TA1606141889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] A large riot by detainees' relatives took place at the Ansar-2 lockup facility on Gaza's shore this morning. The riot began after the detainees launched a strike as a token of solidarity with their colleagues at Ansar-3—Qezi'ot—and refused to accept visits. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman in Gaza spoke to our correspondent Moti Amir and denied that there had been any casualties.

Foreign correspondents say, in contrast, that the soldiers who guard the facility shot in the direction of the visitors, and one of them, a 60-year-old woman, was severely wounded in the head. Her name was not released.

Youth Killed, 2 Wounded

TA1706184089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Akram Taysir Hanuni, a resident of the Khan Yunus refugee camp, was killed this evening. Residents told our correspondent Moti Amir that an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit which entered the camp was stoned, causing the soldiers to open fire.

In Gaza, residents report two additional wounded in clashes with IDF soldiers at al-Shati refugee camp. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 17 June adds that "in response to the call by the leadership of the uprising, a general strike was staged in the territories today as a token of rejection of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's political initiative and of support for the convening of an international conference." Also, "the IDF today conducted a large-scale initiated operation in numerous villages in Samaria and the Hebron Hills area. Several people wanted by the security forces were detained, and five Arab residents were wounded by gunfire in the course of the operation. In Kafr Malik the soldiers discovered a cache of uniforms used by the popular army members in the territories. Residents said that about 27 Arabs were beaten by soldiers in the villages of Hawwarah and Awsarin. In reaction, military sources said that an IDF investigation indicates that no wounded remained in the hospital for treatment, and soldiers were not involved in this incident."]

Nabulus Youth Killed

TA1806083489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] A youth, 17-year old Salah 'Umar Bakh , was killed in Nabulus this morning. Doctors at the hospital said he was killed by gunfire. Residents told our correspondent, Moti Amir, that the youth was killed by army gunfire in the course of an incident at the local market. Army sources confirm that they have received reports of the youth's death. The commander of the area has set out to the scene to investigate the incident. Nabulus has been declared a closed military zone.

This incident brings the number of deaths in the territories over the last 3 days to five.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown at a Border Police patrol in the Old City of Jerusalem a short while ago. Moshe Nussbaum, our police affairs correspondent, reports that the bottle shattered but failed to ignite. There were no casualties and no damage was reported.

An Israeli bus was set on fire near the Erez checkpoint in the Gaza Strip after the driver and passengers were ordered to step out. Local residents told our correspondent Moti Amir that the army prevented workers from the Gaza Strip without entry permits from entering Israel. In reaction, all the workers, including those with suitable permits, returned home.

In another incident at the Erez checkpoint, stones were thrown at policemen and soldiers this morning. A stolen Israeli car burst through the checkpoint, and the pursuing security forces discovered the car abandoned approximately 1 km south of the checkpoint. A large traffic jam developed, and several youngsters used the commotion to attack the security personnel.

IDF Officer, Resident Injured

TA1806092389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer was shot and lightly wounded at the intersection next to the Military Administration building in Gaza this morning. He was treated on the spot.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that gunshots were fired at the officer out of an Arab car that was driving by. As stated earlier, he was lightly injured. A local resident was seriously injured in the shooting and taken to the hospital.

IDF forces are scouring the area in search of the car from which the shots were fired.

Nabulus, Gaza Men Die

TA1806202289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] A 19-year-old Nabulus youth died this evening in an incident in which rocks and building blocks were thrown at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in another incident near the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp, an IDF patrol instructed an ambulance driver to halt. He refused, and several shots were then fired at the ambulance, injuring the driver. Nabulus residents have reported that the ambulance driver was transferring the body of the dead youth to the hospital.

A Gaza resident who was wounded this morning by gunfire directed at an IDF officer died. The shots were fired from a vehicle traveling on the city's main street. The officer, Captain Yisra'el Bar-Yishay, was grazed by a bullet in the shoulder.

Salah Muhammad al-Makdinah, aged 50, from the al-Rumayl neighborhood in Gaza, who was walking by, was seriously injured by the shots. He died in al-Shifa' hospital later.

Cabinet Declares 3 Territory Groups 'Terrorist'

TA1806132989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] The Cabinet decided today to declare another three organizations in the territories terrorist organizations. They are: Hamas [Islamic resistance movement], Hizballah, and the Islamic Jihad under all its various names. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that from now on, whenever charges are raised in the course of a legal debate that one of these organizations is indeed a terrorist organization, the onus will be on defendants to prove otherwise. Thus far, 21 organizations in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza have been proclaimed terrorist organizations.

West Bank Commander Extends Closure of Schools

TA1806191289 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commander in Judaea and Samaria today published a decree extending the closure of schools and universities throughout the area by another month.

This afternoon, a group of Palestinian personalities issued a call on the Israeli Government to reopen the schools that were closed during the previous schoolyear. Dr Jabi Baramaki, the president of Bi'r Zayt University, who cosigned the letter, told our correspondent this evening that the intifadah [uprising] continues despite the closure of the schools. So what then, is the point of keeping them closed, he asked.

Yitzhaq Navon, deputy prime minister and education minister, today again urged the defense establishment to review the closure of the schools in Judaea and Samaria.

'Minutes' of Husayn-Bush April Talks Reported

JN1806080689 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Jun 89 p 15

[Unattributed report]

[Text] The Paris-based newspaper AL-MUHARRIR has published the most important part of the minutes of the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President George Bush in Washington last April. The minutes include answers to hot questions dealing with the prospects of a possible settlement in the region and the true U.S. attitude toward the Middle East crisis.

President Bush: Your Majesty, it is customary to listen first to what the guest has to say and to discuss his views with him. However, this time I would like to deviate from this custom and begin discussing the subject that you regard as fateful; namely, the Palestinian problem. I tell you frankly that we share with you the view that a solution to this problem will result in ending tension and conflict in your region.

King Husayn: Our problem with the successive U.S. Administrations—I say this because I discussed this issue with all the U.S. presidents, beginning with Eisenhower—is that these administrations do not understand what is really taking place in the region. Each time we talked with a U.S. president—and the last was President Reagan and you know that—he would tell us that he did not know all these things, and we always returned to square one. After we explain all the facts to the president, he goes and acts contrary to the way he should act.

President Bush Except us. We have prepared complete files about the problem. From my experience in the government and my work as vice president, I learned every detail, however trivial, concerning the issue. We have a very accurate knowledge of all that is going on.

King Husayn: That is a great relief; I believe that an awareness of the facts will help form the right concepts.

President Bush: We are trying to deny the repeated charges that the United States is completely biased in Israel's favor. To be completely frank, we uphold Israel's security and right to exist. It is our main ally in the region. We also want you to abandon the notion that the United States has no credibility.

King Husayn: Our experience over more than 2 decades has proved that the U.S. credibility is no more than zero, that you favor Israel more than you do U.S. interests themselves. I often said that I wish the U.S. Administration would consider Israel a U.S. state because it would then be possible to realize justice. However, Washington is placing all of its resources at Israel's disposal.

President Bush: Your Majesty, I would like to speak frankly and clearly. The negative Arab attitude toward the peace accord with Egypt and the Camp David agreement was harmful. This negative attitude robbed the Arabs of the opportunity to realize peace. You, in particular, were responsible for the primary role Jordan was assigned. However, what happened was that you fought the Camp David agreement.

King Husayn: In our opinion, the Camp David accords were a blow to the settlement efforts. They also weakened the position of America's Arab friends. Those accords hampered the peace prospects. If the United States thinks that a separate settlement is the only course possible, then such a settlement will never be achieved.

President Bush: We have developed our position on several other occasions. President Reagan issued his plan on 1 September 1982. We also proposed the Shultz initiative last year. Both plans gave a leading and basic role to Jordan. But you turned down all our attempts.

King Husayn: Jordan's position is very clear, Mr President. We set it forth from the first moment we accepted Resolution 242 and later at the Geneva conference. We believe that a solution is only possible through an international conference attended by all parties headed by the PLO. We also believe that a settlement of the Palestine question not linked to the right of self-determination is not achievable.

President Bush: We are not for the eventual establishment of a Palestinian state, but we do not object to discussing the right of self-determination.

King Husayn: The right of self-determination will necessarily lead to the establishment of the Palestinian state. The Palestinian people have the right to establish their state on their national soil.

President Bush: This is not acceptable to Israel.

King Husayn: Israel also does not accept withdrawal from the territories it occupied in the 1967 war in accordance with Security Council Resolution 242 and international wishes. If there is no complete Israeli withdrawal, then any discussion on the subject would only be going around in a vicious circle.

President Bush: We cannot impose withdrawal on Israel. Withdrawal must be achieved through negotiations. In our opinion, the withdrawal will not be complete.

King Husayn: Therefore, the road to a settlement is closed!

President Bush: A solution in the region depends on you, Your Majesty. We believe that there is no way to a solution other than through Jordan.

King Husayn: We cannot enter into separate solutions. I am a man with a history. My family has roots in Arab Islamic history. I cannot have it put against my record that I abandoned any inch of Palestinian territory.

President Bush: But others agree to any solution and to any part of the territory through direct bilateral talks with Israel.

King Husayn: I do not know who you mean. But nevertheless, Jordan cannot possibly accept a solution that does not vindicate Arab honor. The settlement must be through an international framework with the participation of all parties.

President Bush: Your Majesty, we want to talk in depth and with responsibility. Jordan is a small country facing an economic crisis. We cannot stop Israel from attacking you militarily. Therefore, out of our faith that Jordan is a pillar of stability in the region and a strong country internally, we ask you to enter into a direct settlement instead of wasting time. We will make an offer that the United States will guarantee Jordan's safety politically and militarily, as well as its security. We are also ready to sign a treaty with you with all the guarantees you want if you fear certain Arab sides.

King Husayn: The issue as far as we are concerned is one of principle and the security of the entire Arab nation.

President Bush: From the economic aspect, we propose to pay you $5 million now as a down payment. We also adhere to an annual aid level of $2 billion, which will contribute toward solving your economic crisis. We guarantee the political silence of all the Arabs. On the security level, we offer you all guarantees.

King Husayn: I reject this kind of talk. My people are able to live with dignity and we cannot sell ourselves and Palestine, no matter how numerous the temptations are.

President Bush: But Jordan is facing difficult circumstances. And you know that the recent events are a result of the deteriorating economic situation.

King Husayn: We do not accept pressures. What happened was within the framework of the Jordanian house and we will deal with it by depending on our people's awareness.

President Bush: But Jordan will face an even more difficult situation. You need our help and the aid that we can give you indirectly, via others. We also cannot guarantee that Israel will not wage war against you if you continue to resist entering into a separate settlement with it. It will be forced to impose that by force. I am not saying that that will happen. However, we have to consider all possibilities.

King Husayn: One of our proverbs says: Death is preferable to humiliation. We reject any form of the carrot-and-stick policy. Our position is clear and we expressed it to you when confronting Reagan's and Shultz' initiatives. We believe that the only way to a solution is an international conference with the participation of all parties. We cannot say more than that. If His Excellency the President is ready to discuss the subject, then there will be a serious discussion of this issue. Otherwise, the intentions are that no solution is realized except as seen from the Israeli perspective. This is what we will never accept. We cannot impose anything on you. However, we ask you, in light of your international responsibilities, that your efforts be toward a solution and not toward destroying the region in a way that would harm your interests. You also cannot impose anything or any stand whatever it is. We are asking you for justice and you are demanding things that go against the rules of justice.

President Bush: We will discuss the issue in light of your stubbornness and determination. However, the United States is concerned about Jordan and about helping it. We still affirm that you alone are the key to the solution.

Husayn's Remarks Hailed

JN1806101889 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Jun 89 pp 1, 16

["Spark" column by the chief editor: "The Leader Who Is True to His People"]

[Text] "We cannot enter into separate solutions. I am a man with a history. My family has roots in Arab Islamic history. I cannot have it put against my record that I abandoned any inch of Palestinian territory."

That is what King Husayn told U.S. President Bush during last April's meeting. By these words, King Husayn armed himself and Jordan in confronting all kinds of pressure and challenges that have been directed at this impregnable bastion to deviate it from the path in which it believed and to which it devoted itself.

The king said: "We do not accept pressure. My people are able to live with dignity and we cannot sell ourselves and Palestine no matter how numerous the temptations are."

Yes, that has been and still is Husayn's path, the path of allegiance to his great grandfather [the Prophet Muhammad] who said: "By God I will not abandon this faith even if they put the sun on my right and the moon on my left." This is the same path which Ja'far Ibn-Abu-Talib took in the battle of Mu'tah: He held the banner in his right hand and, when it was severed, he held it in his left hand; when it also was severed, he embraced the banner with his arms, saying that the prophet's banner will not fall.

It is the same path that Husayn Ibn-'Ali [King Husayn's great grandfather] took against all compromises; the path of King Faysal [Husayn Ibn-'Ali's son] in the battle of Maysalun [against the French in Syria]. It is the path of an entire generation of Hashemites whose eyes were always fixed on Jerusalem and its glory.

This nation has never been and will never be humiliated as long as men like Husayn live in it. This nation is always capable of renewal, of confrontation and steadfastness and of raising the banners high in order to keep Arabism alive, vital, and progressing, participating in and making civilization.

Yes, death is preferable to humiliation because the free woman will not sell herself in order to stay alive.

Jordan has always been Arab, belonging to all the Arabs in terms of its message, principles, heart, and banners. With the will and perspicacity of its leader and with the support of the Jordanian people and the Arab nation, Jordan will be able to overcome difficulties and injuries and be an impregnable fortress.

They wanted to twist arms, tarnish history, and undermine achievements, but history will expose them and firm positions will belie all their intentions and concepts because the will is greater than the flesh, persistence is firmer than worldly things, and the message is loftier than mundane values.

Yes, we will be steadfast and self-reliant. We will be a paragon to be emulated by others. We will not tell our leader: Go and fight it alone. We will tell him: We are at your side, we are behind you, and you will find us steadfast.

King Husayn Returns From ACC Summit 17 Jun

JN1706114989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned home today after leading Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the higher commission of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] that were held in Alexandria. Also taking part in these meetings were ACC leaders Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister on Agreements

JN1706130089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir has said that the Jordanian Government will take the appropriate constitutional and legal measures to implement the agreements and resolutions approved by the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] higher commission that took place in Alexandria on 15 and 16 June. In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, the prime minister said these agreements and resolutions carry special importance because they constitute the first step toward implementing the principles and bases which constitute the foundations of the ACC.

It is noteworthy that these agreements and resolutions include an agreement on legal and judicial cooperation, an agreement on the privileges and immunities of the ACC, a resolution approving the organization of the movement and work of ACC citizens, and an agreement to establish a civil aviation council made up of leading civil aviation authorities and directors of the national airlines of the ACC states. This is in addition to a resolution approving the rules of the ACC working procedures and a resolution approving cooperation and coordination among foreign ministries in the ACC states.

The prime minister also affirmed that the government will provide all facilities for the ACC general secretariat, whose headquarters will be in Amman.

The prime minister said that we are happy to receive Secretary-General Dr Hilmi Mahmud Nammar, who will arrive in Amman next week to assume his new post. His excellency added that a spirit of sincere action and consideration of future prospects prevailed during the ACC meetings in order to lay a solid foundation capable of dealing with the international economic groupings, which have become the mark of the age. He hoped that there will comprehensive, fruitful, and constant cooperation among this new council, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union in the interests of the Arab nation and its progress and prosperity.

The prime minister affirmed that the ACC summit meeting provided an opportunity to review and assess the developments in major Arab and international issues, headed by the Palestine question, the situation between Iraq and Iran, and the Lebanese problem.

Concluding his statement, the prime minister said that Jordan will begin to prepare for the next ACC meeting in Sanaa next September.

Prime Minister Briefs Cabinet

JN1706195789 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] This evening the prime minister, Al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, briefed the cabinet on the outcome of the ACC [Arab Cooperation Council] meetings which were concluded in Alexandria last night.

The prime minister said a high spirit prevailed over the summit meetings as the four leaders were keen to lay the foundations of joint action in the ACC institutions in a manner that would serve the interests and objectives of the four member countries and pan-Arab issues.

Fadlallah Reportedly Envisages Hostages' Release
LD1706124589 Hamburg DPA in German 1205 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Beirut (DPA)—In the opinion of the influential Lebanese Shi'ite leader Shaykh Sa'id Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah the 17 Western hostages still held at present in Lebanon could be released soon. Fadlallah is the spiritual leader of the pro-Iranian extremist organisation Hizballah ("Party of God"), which is assigned the main role in the kidnappings in Lebanon.

In a DPA interview, Fadlallah said on Saturday [17 June] in Beirut that after the death of the revolutionary leader Ayatollah Khomeyni, "Iran can no longer have any interest in holding these hostages."

"Anyone in their (the Iranian leadership's) position will now have to do everything to improve relations with the hostages' home countries with their help." Fadlallah let it be known that Khomeyni himself was scarcely informed of details during the course of the hostage affairs.

The kidnappers in Lebanon have realized in the meantime "that their hostage enterprises have come to a dead end," said Fadlallah, who wears the black turban and beard of the mullahs. "The United States and the rest of the West are now occupied with other and greater things than the fight against terrorism, for example with the change in the Soviet Union and the revolution in China." [passage omitted]

Amal Accuses Hizballah of Military Preparations
NC1806162189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Amal Movement sources have accused Hizballah of transporting arms and ammunition to the Cola Bridge area in a bid to expand toward the al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq area. The Amal sources stressed that Hizballah gunmen are carrying out provocative acts against the Amal personnel.

'Awn Urges Improved Ties With Syria
PM1606154089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jun 89 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "'Awn Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Tripartite Committee Leaders Constitute Guarantee, Striving To Face New Conditions"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—After its interview with Lebanese Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, who considered that the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee envoy to Lebanon Lakhdar Ibrahimi achieved tangible progress, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT interviewed General Michel 'Awn, head of the military government, who expressed his hope that the Lebanese crisis will end in a such a way as to restore Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty.

'Awn added that the real guarantee for overcoming the obstacles to a solution is based on the presence of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, King Hassan II of Morocco, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, who all carry personal weight to match their countries' status. In addition to this, the tripartite committee enjoys clear support from the Security Council's permanent member states, Europe, and the Arab League.

On the achievements of the mission of the tripartite committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, which Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said has achieved tangible progress, 'Awn said: Any committee formed to resolve a problem on such a scale needs some time to work positively and effectively, explore the views of the various groups, determine the obstacles, and then define its position.

He added that it is natural for the Arab committee to take some time, particularly as a major party to the Lebanese problem—that is, Syria—has still not translated into practice what it has said in theory.

He said that Ibrahimi conveys viewpoints between Lebanese and Syrian officials. For our part, we announced previously that we would grant him our utmost cooperation.

'Awn added: The problem has nothing to do with us. We have always responded to Arab resolutions. When the Arab League called for a cease-fire in Lebanon, we were the first to respond, and we are still committed to it. We adopted the same position when the Arab summit repeated the call for a cease-fire.

Anyone concerned with the Lebanese question, he said, can identify who is violating the cease-fire daily and continuing to impose a blockade.

On the problem facing the firm establishment of a cease-fire and the search for a political solution, he said: The point is simply that Syria has set new conditions, including observing ports, forming security committees, and reviving local fronts [wajihat]. We know that even if we accept these conditions, we will find ourselves faced with further conditions.

We believe, he said, that the time has come to state things clearly. There is a pressing need to rectify relations between certain Arab states, especially between us and Syria. And such relations cannot be rectified unless they are based on cooperation and noninterference in internal affairs.

'Awn stressed his confidence in the Lebanese people's ability to reach an understanding on political and constitutional reforms, pointing out that everyone, without exception, believes in the need for reform. He reiterated

that the continued presence of non-Lebanese armies "obstructs, prevents, and delays such an understanding and cannot be a factor of stability." [passage omitted]

Israeli 'Acts of Aggression' Protested

NC1506113989 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Lebanon has decided to file an urgent complaint with the United Nations against the Israeli acts of aggression. Acting on instructions from Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, in his capacity as foreign minister, the Foreign Ministry, through its acting Secretary-General Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, cabled Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent delegate to the United Nations, today. The Foreign Ministry asked Ambassador Fakhuri to file an urgent complaint against the Israeli acts of aggression—the latest of which were yesterday's air raids—reserving Lebanon's right to ask the UN Security Council to convene whenever it wishes.

Israeli Planes Overfly Lebanon; Clashes in South

NC1906091589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes reconnoitered Lebanese airspace, breaking the sound barrier, shortly after 1100 today.

Meanwhile, clashes involving the use of machineguns and rockets are raging between the South Lebanese Army and gunmen of various local organizations along the Lib'a, Kafr Falus, and 'Ayn al-Mir combat lines east of Sidon.

Jubayl Coast Shelled; Suburb, Mountain Clashes

NC1806141489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] About 70 shells fired from Syrian artillery emplacements in the north fell on the Jubayl coast this afternoon.

Meanwhile, the Sodeco and Primo confrontation lines have come under heavy sniper fire. This coincided with artillery and rocket attacks on the Kafr Shima lines in the southern suburb, and the Suq al-Gharb lines in the mountain.

We have just learned that the heavy sniper fire is continuing on the Sodeco, al-Yasu'iyah, Fu'ad, Shihab Bridge, al-Tabaris, and the old commercial area confrontation lines. The attacks on the Army positions in Suq al-Gharb have stopped.

Authorities Release 145 Palestinians, 40 Lebanese

NC1806193089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] AP cites Arab sources as saying that Syrian authorities have recently released 145 Palestinians from the Fatah Movement and 40 members of the Lebanese Islamic Unification movement.

Al-Ahmar Meets Visiting Sudanese Official

JN1806190289 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP], this evening received 'Uthman 'Umar al-Sharif, Sudanese minister of justice and member of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] Political Bureau. The Sudanese charge d'affairs in Damascus also attended.

During the meeting, conversation revolved around relations between the ASBP and the DUP and around relations between the two fraternal countries—Syria and Sudan—and means to improve them. The conversation also dealt with issues of mutual concern, particularly with developments in the Arab arena in general.

Assembly Speaker, Tunisians Leave for Abu Dhabi

JN1606162589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah left Damascus this afternoon for Abu Dhabi at the head of a delegation from the assembly to attend the fifth conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] that will be held 18-20 June.

The Tunisian Chamber of Deputies' delegation, headed by Slaheddine Baly, president of the chamber and chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union, left Damascus for Abu Dhabi on the same plane after a 3-day visit to our country during which he held talks with ranking officials in the People's Assembly and government, crowned by his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Mr Qaddurah and Mr Baly and their accompanying delegations were seen off by a number of committee chairmen in the People's Assembly, some assembly members, and the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus.

Mr Qaddurah made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he said that the aim of his visit to Abu Dhabi is to participate in the fifth conference of the APU, to be held with the participation of a number of Arab parliaments in the Arab East and Maghreb. He added that this conference is held annually in an Arab country. The last round was held in December 1988 in Tunis. After that conference, Tunis became the chairman of the APU for 1 year. In this conference, the United Arab Emirates will become the chairman of the APU for 1 year.

Mr Qaddurah pointed out that the Syrian Arab parliamentary section submitted three working papers. The first deals with Arab solidarity, the second with supporting the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territories—the Golan Heights, the south [southern Lebanon], the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip—and the third with the situation in Lebanon. Another paper was submitted on issuing a unified Arab law on the environment in all Arab countries.

Mr Slaheddine Baly also made a statement in which he expressed his joy and pride over his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. He said: We found in him everything we expected. I conveyed to President Hafiz al-Asad a message of friendship and appreciation from his brother, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

He adds: What we heard from President Hafiz al-Asad was profound and based on meanings, directions, and basic options. We felt that there was a response to what we felt in Tunis.

Concluding his statement, he described his parliamentary discussions and meetings with Syrian officials as having been delightful and friendly and concerned with developing and promoting relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries—Syria and Tunisia. He expressed his hopes that Syria will realize further development, progress, and success.

Al-Asad Receives Tunisian Minister 18 Jun

JN1806121189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad at 1245 today received Dr Hamouda Ben Slama, member of the Tunisian Destourian Democratic Rally's Political Bureau and minister of youth and childhood.

The meeting was attended by Sa'id Hammadah, head of the country's Youth and Sports Department, head of the Revolutionary Youth Union, and Tunisian ambassador in Damascus.

Dr Ben Slama conveyed to the president the greetings of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The president accepted them and conveyed his greetings and good wishes to President Ben Ali and the fraternal Tunisian people.

Talks centered on relations between Syria and Tunisia and the importance of developing and strengthening them in all fields.

Afghanistan

Civilian Airliner Hijacked to Iran

LD1806155189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GM5 18 Jun 89

[Text] A civilian airliner which was flying toward the southwest of the country was diverted from its route by hijackers and forced to land in Zabol, southeastern Iran.

Plane 'Forced to Land'

LD1806163189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] As it was reported by a civil aviation source, an AN-26 civilian aircraft belonging to Ariana Afghan Airline, on a domestic flight number 441 from Kabul to Zaranj in the center of Nimruz Province, was forced to land today in the airport of Zabol in Iran at 1400 by two armed men whose identities are still unknown. This aircraft was carrying 5 crew members and 35 passengers. Among the passengers are eight children and eight women.

According to information received from diplomatic channels, 26 passengers of the aircraft have been released. Efforts to release the rest of the passengers and crew are continuing.

Najibullah Interviewed on Peace Talks, Pakistan

LD1706200189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Jun 89

["Text" of interview with President Najibullah by ASSOCIATED PRESS correspondent (Charles Herba) on 13 June at the Presidency Headquarters—read by announcer]

[Text] [(Herba)] Since the commanders of the opposition groups have rejected your peace proposals, is there another way for you to achieve a settlement?

[Najibullah] It would not be correct to say that all opposition commanders have rejected the peace proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan Government. Since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy, 60,000 armed opposition members have given up fighting and have joined the national reconciliation policy. Especially over the past few months, understanding has been established with a number of regional opposition commanders, and protocols have been signed with a number of them. Contacts are currently under way at different levels between internal commanders and some armed groups. We will continue this policy in the future as well and we will introduce any other proposal that will help to end war and maintain peace in the future.

[(Herba)] What is the status of the talks between Iran and the eight party coalition?

[Najibullah] As I said in response to the previous question, contacts and talks are currently under way with a large number of regional opposition commanders, the results of which are satisfactory and optimistic in many cases. I believe that it would be premature to discuss the conduct of the talks and it would not be beneficial for the process of the talks.

[(Herba)] What do you think about the signs that are coming from Pakistan concerning the removal of Hamid Gul, and the initiatives of the prime minister on the change in the policy of that country toward Afghanistan and on work for a political solution?

[Najibullah] Pakistan has, in the past, talked about a political solution to the Afghanistan problem, but so far it has not acted upon it. And because of this, not only does the fighting continue in Afghanistan, but it has intensified. Even Pakistan has violated its undertakings in the implementation of the Geneva agreements, has, in practice, clearly infringed on the letter and spirit of the agreements, and continues its interventions with the Republic of Afghanistan, especially armed violations and interventions. On the removal of the formeer chief of Pakistan's military intelligence, I personally feel that his removal is not enough. What is important for us is that the Pakistan Government abandon its anti-Afghan policy. Facts reveal the continuing wide participation of the Pakistani military in the combat operations of the armed groups of the Afghan opposition in border areas of Afghanistan, particularly in the battle of Jalalabad. They are not satisfied with this. They have allowed the Wahhabis of Saudi Arabia to carry out subversive activities against the Republic of Afghanistan using the territory of Pakistan in contravention of the Geneva agreements.

Of course we welcome the recent assertions by Ms Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan, in connection with the political solution of the Afghan issue and regard them as a start of a movement towards poltical realism. How can we believe in the honesty of the prime minister of Pakistan when she speaks on the one hand of a political solution and on the other hand prevents a political solution through her irresponsible assertions about the continuation of assistance to the Afghan opposition groups and the resignation of the lawful state of the Republic of Afghanistan?

[(Herba)] What do you think about the meeting between Ms Benazir Bhutto and President Bush? Do you think a change in their thinking could contribute to a speedy end to the war?

[Najibullah] With regard to the results of the talks between Prime Minister Bhutto and President Bush on Afghanistan, I would like to say that their assertions concerning a political solution to the Afghan issue cannot be regarded as serious and true. In the assertions made by the leaders of the United States and Pakistan regarding Afghanistan, there are obvious contradictions. How can one speak of a political solution of a conflict

when one party to the conflict, that is the Republic of Afghanistan, is being ignored? Also, the repetition of the decision by the governments of the United States and Pakistan to continue military assistance to the armed Afghan opposition groups means the continuation of war, and fully contradicts the views of the leaders of these countries about a political solution. Does not the continuation of military assistance to those people who flagrantly reject a political solution serve to encourage them to continue war and bloodshed in the land of Afghanistan and in this way, prevent a political solution of the Afghan issue? On the other hand, it is sad that in the assertions by Mr Bush and Ms Bhutto, as the leaders of the countries, that the signatures of the authoritative representatives of their states are registered under the Geneva accords, that there has not been any reference to the Geneva accords and/or to their full and sincere implementation and observation. The cessation of those countries' interference in the affairs of Afghanistan and the full and sincere observation of the Geneva accords could serve as a good foundation for a political solution.

We have mentioned several times that if the interference from abroad ceases, the Afghans will be able to find a common language. Our position is clear and obvious. The only practical and realistic political solution is the end to hostilities between the involved sides of the war, sitting around a negotiating table, and the formation of a broad based coalition government with the participation of all political personalities and all forces inside and outside of the country. We hope that the United States and Pakistan see the realities of Afghan society, particularly since the complete withdrawal of the Soviet forces and in the light of the developments of the last few months, and put their ideas into practice with realism and a political knowledge about a political solution. Only such thinking and action will contribute to a speedy end to the war.

[(Herba)] Your government has always proposed direct peace talks with the opposition. Is there any limit on the amount of time the government is willing to wait for this?

[Najibullah] We have said several times and will say again that the program of peace and national reconciliation of the Republic of Afghanistan is not a tactic or a temporary policy but it is our long term strategic goal. Therefore, we will continue our efforts in the future to achieve direct peace talks to ensure peace and permanent national reconciliation.

Wakil Interviewed on U.S., Pakistani Statements

LD1606194789 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 0600 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, 16 Jun, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], gave the following interview to BAKHTAR concerning the recent statements by the U.S. and Pakistani authorities:

[Unidentified correspondent] Esteemed 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the RA: During the past few days the official authorities of the United States and Pakistan have made relatively new statements on Afghanistan in connection with the recent talks between U.S. President George Bush and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Furthermore, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan recently, and a Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday, made statements about the formation of a so-called neutral government in Afghanistan. Please express your views regarding these statements.

[Wakil] Following the recent talks between Mr George Bush and Ms Benazir Bhutto in Washington, optimism was high regarding the fact that the U.S. Administration and Pakistan agreed to follow a more realistic approach toward Afghanistan in consideration of the existing facts. Instead of insisting on a military solution as the only alternative, they placed emphasis on a political solution. In welcoming such a realistic new stance, we are hoping that they will display their sincerity concerning these statement by taking practical and acceptable steps; and consequently in assisting to reach a political solution. However, as it appears from the statements made in the last 2 days by high ranking U.S. and Pakistani officials, they have not yet given up their efforts to impose their desire political solution and to exert military pressure in accordance with the prepared recipe in Washington and Islamabad.

In reacting to the meeting between Bush and Bhutto, as reflected in the interview that esteemed Najibullah gave to BAKHTAR, the Government of the RA expressed a desire for them to present constructive, rational, realistic, and specific proposals for reaching a political solution instead of putting forward models and recipes acceptable to Washington and Islamabad. The statements made in the past 1 or 2 days by the United States and Pakistan in no way demonstrate a realistic policy.

A number of issues were discussed at those talks. First of all, emphasis was placed on the continuation of U.S. assistance and supply to the armed opposition of the RA until: 1) they achieve a military victory; or 2) in the event of a failure to achieve military victory, they will accept a political solution while in a better position.

The U.S. officials have not kept secret their objective to launch the political process from a position of strength.

In our opinion, such a view is an immature, wishful, and useless thinking because the developments after the withdrawal of Soviet military units from Afghanistan clearly show that the calculation by the United States, Pakistan, and others concerning the toppling of the Afghan Government by military means is an impossible task and the trend of developments regarding the consolidation of Afghanistan's military, political, and international positions is such that even officials of Mr Bush's administration and the U.S. and European press accept them more than before and even explicitly. In our

opinion the process of reaching a political solution cannot be imposed from a position of strength or by reaching for a better military position. Because the more the opposition forces are armed and strengthened by the United States and Pakistan, the more we will increase our own strength—and this will not assist in reaching a political solution.

In our opinion, realism in calculating the strengths of all sides, and acknowledging them, will make it possible to reach a political solution and accelerate it.

The other point in the Washington-Islamabad recipe as a precondition that was put forward for achieving a political solution is the proposal for the legal Government of the RA to step down and for the creation of a so-called neutral government consisting of technocrats and other persons in Kabul to hold talks with opposition forces in creating a broad based government. U.S. and Pakistani officials have gone further and said they will contact this or that government to achieve this end. Such statements cannot be regarded as serious and responsible. First of all, the Afghan opposition groups have not been able to find a common language among themselves after 10 years. Their differences and discords increase with each passing day. How can they reach a compromise on sharing power in an unstable government—the so-called neutral government.

Second, on what foundation and on the basis of what power can this [word indistinct], the so-called neutral government, be founded? I said we cannot regard as serious such statements because how can we speak of a political solution and talks on the formation of a coalition government with broad bases while ignoring the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] with its 230,000 members and its poliical allies and social organizations; the powerful Government of the RA; the powerful Armed Forces of the RA; the existing state administrative system; and, above all, the legal, free, independent, and sovereign Government of the RA.

In our opinion we cannot achieve a political solution by such methods and maneuvers. The stance of the RA concerning a political solution is completely clear. We have time and again expressed our opinion and again we emphasize that no political solution is feasible without the participation of the Government of the RA as an essential element of a coalition.

In our opinion the stepping down of the PDPA and its political allies and the RA Government would not assist the political solution. The present government is the only factor ensuring the independence, national unity, and nonaligned status of the country. These values would be confronted with serious danger and the country would disintegrate.

While being completely faithful to the principle of talks and dialogue to end the war and bloodshed in the country and to form a government with broad bases and the participation of all political forces, we believe that to reach this end the existence of the Afghan Government is required under the present circumstances, because the Afghan Government is a confident factor in reaching these objectives and is the only force that can safeguard national unity under the present circumstances of imposed war and aggression and interference by Pakistan against its independence, national unity, and territorial integrity. It is the only thing that can prevent the disintegration of the country and the intensification of the internal war, which could take on unpredictable dimensions. We believe that those who make such (?unwise) claims are aware of this fact too but their mean interests and short-term policy requirements prevent them from acknowledging this reality.

We are hopeful that the created optimism for reaching a political solution to the events in Afghanistan reaches its desirable conclusion and ends in a rational political solution that will be acceptable to all sides, is based on the harsh present realities, and brings about the cessation of war and bloodshed in the Afghan land.

Mujahidin Reject Pakistani Power Transfer Plan

BK1806014489 Hong Kong AFP in English 2001 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 17 (AFP)—The prime minister of the mujahidin's interim government on Saturday [17 June] rejected a reported Pakistani proposal to install a neutral cabinet of technocrats in Afghanistan, the pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) reported.

'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf said in an interview with ANA that the latest proposal, aimed at transferring power to the Muslim mujahidin, would "just prolong the Afghan issue."

A Foreign Office spokesman here proposed on Wednesday that a cabinet of technocrats could replace President Najibullah's regime for transition of power to the mujahidin's interim government, if the Soviet-backed ruler was unwilling to hand over power directly to the resistance.

Mr. Sayyaf said giving the technocrats an "independent status to hold reins of power was not acceptable, as it will be a parallel set-up to the mujahidin government, which we would not allow."

The fundamentalist Afghan rebel leader said the mujahidin could induct technocrats with an "Islamic background" into their interim government.

Mr. Sayyaf who is currently at an unidentified place in Afghanistan, vowed to continue jihad, or holy war, until an Islamic government was established in Kabul, ANA said.

The resistance leader was quoted by ANA as saying that supporting his government was the only way to ensure "peace and an end of hostilities in the war-torn" nation.

Pakistani Envoy Summoned After Border Overflight

LD1606185189 Kabul in Pashto to Europe 1730 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] The Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned today to the Foreign Ministry, where the following strong Foreign Ministry protest was conveyed to him by the acting head of the First Political Section:

In accordance with the reports by the relevant authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan, a Pakistani helicopter passed the border in the region of Vakhan, Badakhshan Province, at about 1230 on 12 June and carried out a 10-km reconnaissance flight inside the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan, returning to Pakistan after 10 minutes.

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly protests against such actions by the Government of Pakistan. It calls on that country to avoid such aggression in the airspace of the Republic of Afghanistan. Otherwise, the responsibility for the grave consequences arising from such aggression will rest on the Pakistani authorities.

Mujahidin Complain Over U.S. Arms Supply Cuts

BK1906034389 Hong Kong AFP in English 0324 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 19 (AFP)—The Afghan mujahidin's interim government has complained of a cut in U.S. arms supplies and warned Western countries against trying to settle the Afghan conflict without the rebels' consent.

"Things must be clear: Any attempt to solve the Afghan problem against the will and the decisions of the mujahidin will not only be in vain, but will have negative consequences for Afghanistan and the whole region," said Rasul Sayyaf, prime minister of the resistance government and head of the pro-Saudi, fundamentalist Etehad-e Eslami Party.

Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, the government's foreign minister, also said Sunday that "certain foreign countries were plotting once again to impose former King Zahir Shah on the Afghans."

"All these efforts will lead to a civil war," Mr. Hikmatyar, chief of the radical fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami Party, told a conference at the Institute for Strategic Studies here.

Some moderate mujahidin leaders have expressed support for the return of Zahir Shah, who lives in exile in Rome.

Mr. Hikmatyar said the United States has practically stopped arms deliveries to the resistance since the Soviet troop pullout ended February 15.

"Apparently, the United States and the Western powers only wanted to obtain the Soviet withdrawal. Today they seem to prefer a communist regime to an Islamic government in Afghanistan," he said.

He said the mujahidin have faced serious supply problems in recent months, especially in terms of munitions, while the communist government in Kabul keeps receiving "more and more sophisticated arms."

But Mr. Hikmatyar said this had not prevented the guerrillas from maintaining control of 5 of the country's 30 provinces and some 200 administrative regions (districts and sub-districts).

Afghan resistance leaders have been increasingly open in expressing their fear of being abandoned by Washington and Islamabad since the visit of Pakistan's prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, to the United States earlier this month.

Last week, a Pakistani Government spokesman said Islamabad would look favourably on the formation of a "temporary cabinet of technocrats" in Kabul to relace President Najibullah's regime ahead of the establishment of a mujahidin government.

Rebel Leader Warns Kabul Against Scud Attacks

BK1806030089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] (Sayyid Didar), an Afghan mujahidin commander posted at Chowkay near Kabul, has warned the Kabul regime that it should stop firing Scud missiles on nonmilitary areas and killing civilians. In a statement issued by the Afghan Media Report Center, he said that the mujahidin will target attacks against the Kabul airport and the Dar ol Aman Palace if the Kabul regime ignores the threat. The threat was given following the Kabul regime's Scud missile attack on a mosque west of Jalalabad on Thursday [15 June] in which 20 mujahidin and civilians were killed. The Scud missiles are fired from Dar ol Aman and Kheyr Khaneh on the outskirts of Kabul.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin have captured a power station that supplies electricity to Kabul. The mujahidin killed 30 soldiers and captured 7 in the operation. Four mujahidin and a commander, (Sher Muhammad), were killed in the fighting, which lasted a whole day.

In Qandahar, the mujahidin destroyed two helicopters at the airport and set fire to an ammunition depot.

Mujahidin Capture Power Station Near Kabul

BK1706155689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1536 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 17 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin last week captured an important power station that supplies electricity to the capital Kabul, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) reported Saturday [17 June].

The mujahidin killed 30 troops and captured 60 in the June 9 attack and seized control of the Mahipur power station located about 25 kilometres east of Kabul, AIP said.

It said four mujahidin guerrillas and a commander of the Hezb-e Eslami Khalis faction, Sher Muhammad, were killed during the day-long fighting.

A day before attacking the Mahipur power station the guerrillas captured three security posts of Gandhak, Dozakh Kandah and Houze in the hills around the station, the agency said.

It was not clear if the guerrillas still control the power station. Other sources said the mujahidin have intensified attacks around Kabul in an effort to ease pressure from government forces on the eastern Jalalabad front, where the mujahidin are engaged in heavy fighting since early March.

Mujahidin Missiles Reportedly Strike Baghlan

BK1706090189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin launched missile attacks on military installations in Baghlan city, inflicting heavy losses in men and material on Kabul regime forces and forcing the (?504th) National Brigade Battalion to lay down arms. The Kabul forces later bombed the city.

The mujahidin also reportedly attacked the (?Shahyabi) village and captured 10 posts in the vicinity of the village. A large number of Kabul regime soldiers have been killed or wounded in a battle at [name indistinct]. The mujahidin repulsed the Kabul forces' attack on Patan and destroyed two tanks and a vehicle. Three Kabul soldiers were captured, while some others were either killed or wounded.

India

Joint Statement Issued on Siachen Settlement

BK1706161189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] India and Pakistan have agreed to work for a comprehensive settlement of the Siachen issue in accordance with the Simla agreement. A joint press statement issued at the end of the fifth round of talks between the defense secretaries of India and Pakistan in Rawalpindi states that both sides discussed specific proposals for an early settlement. There was agreement by both sides to work toward a comprehensive settlement based on redeployment of forces to reduce the chances of conflict, avoidance of the use of force, and the determination of future positions on the ground so as to conform to the Simla agreement and to ensure durable peace in the Siachen area.

The statement says that the army authorities of both sides will determine these positions. Both sides also agreed that after an in-depth examination of such proposals, the next round of talks between the defense secretaries will be held at New Delhi in the near future.

The Indian delegation was headed by the defense secretary, Mr Naresh Chandra, and the Pakistani delegation was led by the defense secretary, Syed Ijlal Haider Zaidi. The Indian ambassador to Pakistan, Mr J.N. Dixit, and the Pakistani ambassador at New Delhi, Mr Niaz Naik, were present during the talks. The discussions were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Talks 'Extremely Positive'

BK1906030189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] India and Pakistan have decided to redeploy their forces to pre-1972 positions in Siachen as they were at the time of signing the Simla agreement by the two sides. This was disclosed by Pakistan's foreign secretary, Dr Humayun Khan, at a joint press conference with the Indian foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, in Islamabad yesterday.

The Pakistani foreign secretary stressed that by withdrawing their troops to the pre-1972 position, the two will avoid a situation of confrontation which could accidentally lead to a situation of conflict. He said the great significance of the joint decision by the defense secretaries of the two countries was the potential source of conflict between India and Pakistan will be removed. The exact positions are to be worked out by the military authorities of the two countries. Both the foreign secretaries expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved during their talks and those held at other levels. The Pakistani foreign secretary described the spirit of their discussions as extremely positive.

The Indian foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, pointed out that the main aim was to improve bilateral relations as well as maintain and build the spirit of cooperation, peace, harmony, and togetherness.

On his meetings with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto, Mr Singh said they discussed not only bilateral issues but also issues of international concern. Mr S.K. Singh left for Lahore on his way back to New Delhi last evening.

Gandhi on Sri Lankan Strategy, Cabinet Moves

BK1906080189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that India will wait for an authentic version of Sri Lanka's reported move to take the issue of withdrawal of the peacekeeping force to the UN Security Council and to the International Court of Justice at The Hague. The prime minister made these remarks when newsmen asked for his comments on the reports from Colombo in a section of the press. Talking to newsmen soon after the swearing-in ceremony of the chief justice at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] this morning, Mr Gandhi said that the India-Sri Lanka agreement stipulated that India is to safeguard the interests of Tamils in Sri Lanka. It provides for the security of Tamils, and we are guarantors of peace in the island. India will fulfill its obligations.

When asked about any possible cabinet reshuffle, the prime minister said that it will be done at the right time.

Defense Minister Commends Troops, Praises IPKF

BK1706144789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has said that India is duty bound to see that the terms of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement are properly fulfilled. Pointing out that New Delhi was a guarantor to the agreement, he said it is our duty to ensure its effective implementation through the PKF [Peacekeeping Force].

The defense minister was addressing troops in some forward areas. He commended the role of the jawans [soldiers] in every front and congratulated them for their successful role in the Maldives and in Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, the third ship carrying Indian assistance to the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka arrived at Trincomalee today. This is part of the 25 crore rupee aid promised by India to develop the region. Today's shipment included 9 trucks, 12 diesel engines, water tanks and other items.

Tamil Nadu Leader on Support for Tamil Homeland

BK1806085589 Hong Kong AFP in English 0804 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Excerpts] New Delhi, June 18 (AFP)—A key Indian Tamil politician was quoted Sunday as saying that the Indian Government seemed to be tacitly backing demands for a separate Tamil homeland called Eelam in Sri Lanka.

Tamil Nadu State Chief Minister Muthuvel Karunanidhi added that if India did support Eelam, it should use its nearly 45,000 peacekeeping troops in the island's Tamil-populated northeast to help bring it about.

"(I) will be pleased if the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] itself would help in bringing about Eelam" if India favours the homeland idea, Mr. Karunanidhi said in a statement carried exclusively by THE TIMES OF INDIA newspaper. The TIMES did not say when the chief minister made the statement.

Mr. Karunanidhi said he inferred a change in New Delhi's stand because the Eelam demand was now being made by the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), which governs a provincial council in Sri Lanka's northeast.

The pro-India EPRLF, one of five major Tamil militant groups which put down weapons in line with a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord, has threatened to resume a campaign for Eelam if Colombo dissolved the council.

The left-wing EPRLF also opposes Sri Lankan calls for a pullout by July 29 of the IPKF before a Tamil security force comes up in the island. [passage omitted]

But Mr. Karunanidhi said his Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Party which administers Tamil Nadu was "in favour of India, Sri Lanka and all Tamil groups, including the LTTE, working out an arrangement acceptable to all parties." The DMK, a close-knit regional party, once backed the campaign for Eelam.

Mr. Karunanidhi returned to power after 13 years in January as chief minister of Tamil Nadu, home to 55 million Indian Tamils which Sri Lankan Tamil separatist groups used as a sanctuary until the 1987 accord was signed.

THE TIMES added that it was "noteworthy" that Mr. Karunanidhi was not calling for the withdrawal of the IPKF although the demand has been voiced by the seven-party opposition National Front, which includes the DMK.

In a related development, New Delhi has reiterated that the IPKF is in Sri Lanka to ensure implementation of the bilateral peace accord. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the EPRLF has accused the LTTE of kidnapping 120 girls from Pattithidal village in eastern Trincomalee to force them into joining the bush war against the IPKF, newspapers here reported Sunday.

The reports quoted EPRLF sources as saying that the girls were picked up from their homes at gunpoint and that the parents had approached IPKF officials and the Northeastern Provincial Council seeking help tracing them.

The UNITED NEWS OF INDIA also quoted the EPRLF as alleging in the Tamil Nadu capital of Madras that Colombo had supplied "a huge quantity of arms and ammunition" to the LTTE on June 3 in Mullaitivu District.

Janata Party Leader Criticizes LTTE

BK1806131989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] The Janata Party leader, Dr Subramaniam Swamy, has said that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] has lost its credibility by joining with [as heard] the anti-Tamil forces. Inaugurating a conference of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization—TELO—in Madras today, Dr Swamy criticized the National Front [an alliance of Indian opposition parties] also for not understanding the Sri Lankan Tamil problem in the proper perspective.

The TELO, in a resolution on the occasion, called for the withdrawal of the Sri Lankan forces from the Northeastern Province of the island.

Meanwhile, the Eelam People's Democratic Party has criticized the joint statement of the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE about the withdrawal of peacekeeping force, saying it is against the spirit of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement.

Further on Swamy Statement

BK1806134189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1331 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] New Delhi, June 18 (AFP)—A prominent Indian opposition Tamil MP [member of Parliament] Sunday called for the creation of a separate Tamil homeland called Eelam in Sri Lanka if Colombo insisted on an Indian troop withdrawal.

"It will be a disaster for the Tamils if the IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force) is pulled out without creating a separate Tamil Eelam," the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted Subramaniam Swamy as saying in southern Madras city.

Dr. Swamy, a leader of the centrist Janata (People's) Party, told a public meeting that Sri Lankan Tamils should unilaterally declare Eelam and said those who wanted the IPKF's withdrawal were "anti-national" and "anti-Tamil".

PTI said the meeting was attended by some 100 members of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), one of the five major Sri Lankan Tamil groups which put down arms under a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

The accord, under which India has some 45,000 troops in Sri Lanka's north and east, sought to end a Tamil separatist campaign and devolve autonomy to the island's two million Tamil minority.

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa called June 1 for a pullout of Indian troops from his country. India has rejected the demand, saying the IPKF would withdraw only after Colombo grants adequate autonomy to the Tamils.

Dr. Swamy, a member of Parliament's Upper House, said India's seven-party opposition National Front should extend support to the Tamil homeland concept.

PTI quoted a TELO spokesman as calling for unity among "all forces" which wanted Eelam and to "expose the anti-Indian" Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the only Tamil group to repudiate the 1987 accord.

More than 3,000 people, including nearly 900 Indian soldiers, have died since the IPKF launched operations in October 1987 to disarm the LTTE after it refused to lay down arms.

The TELO, once a major Tamil group in Sri Lanka, was virtually decimated in April-May 1986 by the LTTE in fratricidal fighting.

1 Killed, 7 Injured in Punjab Bomb Blasts

BK1806032489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] In Punjab, one person was killed and seven seriously injured in two powerful bomb blasts in Ludhiana last night. According to an official spokesman, one blast took place in Bharat Nagar Chowk at about 2115 and the other on Gill Road about 15 minutes later.

6 'Terrorists' Killed, 5 Arrested in Punjab

BK1806160789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] In Punjab, six terrorists were killed and five arrested since last night. A hard-core terrorist, Gurmail Singh Machani, was arrested yesterday from Bombay International Airport while he was trying to sneak out of the country. He was responsible for a number of killings, including that of a senior Akali Dal leader, Dr Rajinder Kaur, at Bhatinda. Elsewhere in Punjab, four terrorists have been arrested.

Meanwhile, one person was killed and seven injured in two powerful bomb blasts in Ludhiana City last night.

Terrorists gunned down a woman and her son in Gurdaspur District and a shopkeeper in Amritsar District.

Iran

Hijacked Afghan Plane Crashes Near Zabol

LD1806125389 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA—An Afghan passenger plane crashed in Zabol, 134 kms north of Zahedan, capital of Sistan-Baluchestan Province, at 13:30 local time (10:00 GMT) today.

Local relief workers immediately rushed to rescue the passengers of the plane.

Zabol borders Afghanistan from north and southeast.

Several rescued passengers told local officials in the hospital that the plane crashed after a clash between its hijackers and the pilot who lost control of the plane and led to its crash.

The pilot identified as Mirvis Paktia, is among the 23 wounded passengers who have been transferred to the hopital.

The point of origin and next destination of the flight as well as the exact number of its crew and passengers have not been known yet.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi assigned his political deputy 'Alireza Mo'ayeri to travel to the area to closely investigate the issue.

Mo'ayeri said in an interview with IRNA before departure that until 13:00 GMT 26 passengers had been rescued by the local relief workers.

He reserved any comments on the incident "until the full investigation of the matter." He identified the aircraft as Antonov-26 passenger plane.

Original reports put the number of the passenger at 36.

Zabol Governor Comments

LD1806185989 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA—Four passengers were killed and 34 others on board the Antonov-26 Afghan airliner injured when the plane crashed inside Iranian territory Sunday.

M. Kazemi, governor of Zabol town in the Baluchestoan va Sistan border province, told IRNA today evening that according to the injured, the aircraft was bound for Zaranj town, Nimruz Province of Afghanistan. The passengers said that due to a clash on board, the plane was strayed off its course and made a forced-landing on a sand dune south of Zabol in Iranian territory.

Governor Kazemi said that the pilot without having any contact with Zabol airport control tower, flew into Iranian skies between 12:30-13:00 hours, and the unsuitable sandy strip made the plane fold in the middle and overturn.

A woman and three children were killed on the spot, and others on board the aircraft were injured including a number of women and children.

The governor said that after the crash, first popular forces and later military and disciplinary forces rushed to the area and took the injured to Zabol hospital immediately. Later, one of the injured who was in critical condition was transferred to a hospital in the provincial capital Zahedan.

Kazemi said the flight details of the plane have not been ascertained as yet. The pilot and co-pilot of the aircraft are among the injured.

Mo'ayeri Visits Crash Site

LD1906061889 Tehran IRNA in English 0605 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Zabol, Sistan va Baluchestan Prov., June 19, IRNA—Deputy Prime Minister 'Alireza Mo'ayeri visited the site where an Afghan Airline plane made an emergency landing.

Mo'ayeri, accompanied by a team of experts Sunday night, was briefed by local officials on the incident which left five passengers—a woman and four men—dead.

The official also visited the 33 injured passengers, including the pilot and security guard, at Zabol's Imam Khomeyni Hospital and was briefed on their treatment by the attending physician.

Dr. Soleymani said the fifth victim of the crash, a 70-year old man died of a heart attack at 11 pm Sunday. A number of those injured have gone under operations and are in good condition.

The Antonov-26 aircraft had 38 on board.

The Afghanistan passenger plane, enroute from Kabul to Zaranj in Nimruz Province, was forced to divert towards Iranian airspace and eventually made an emergency landing southeast of Zabol Sunday afternoon.

Hospital Administrator Cited

NC1906071589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Following the crash of an Afghan passenger plane southeast of Zabol yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister 'Alireza Mo'ayeri arrived in Zabol last night, accompanied by a team of experts. He inspected the site of the

Afghan plane's emergency landing southeast of Zabol and met local officials who described the relief operations being undertaken for those injured in the accident.

The deputy prime minister then visited the victims of the accident in the Imam Khomeyni Hospital in Zabol and saw for himself the relief operations being carried out. During his visit to the injured Afghan passengers, he was given a report on the extent of the passengers' injuries by the head of the Zabol hospital, who added: The fifth casualty of this accident was a 70-year old man who succumbed to a heart attack at 2300 hours last night. He said: From the time of the accident all the medical facilities of Zabol have been mobilized and put at the disposal of the injured. God willing, with the unceasing efforts of the physicians and other medical staff we have been able to carry out surgical operations to save a considerable number of the victims from imminent death.

The head of the Zabol hospital continued: This accident has claimed five victims so far: four men and one woman. Thirty-three persons, including the pilot, co-pilot, and a flight security guard were injured. Speaking to IRNA regarding this accident the governor of Zabol District said that, according to the statements of the injured passengers, the plane, which was en route to Zaranj in Nimrou Province in Afghanistan from Kabul, headed for Iranian territory as a result of a clash on board. It made an emergency landing in a gravel quarry south of Zabol. The Zabol governor added: The pilot did not contact Zabol airport; the plane entered Iranian territory between 1230 and 1300 hours and because of adverse landing conditions on the site it overturned in the process of making a forced landing. Three men and a woman were killed in the accident and there are a number of women and children among the injured.

Khamene'i Says Republic 'Humiliated' U.S.

LD1806155789 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA—The new leader of the Islamic revolution today lauded the Iranian nation for humiliating all bullying powers in the world including the United States, over the past ten years.

"No nation has humiliated such a hegemonist and despotic regime as the United Statess as the Iranian nation has, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i told Gendarmerie and police officials who called on him to pledge allegiance.

He said "the strong arm of the Islamic revolution and the father of the Islamic Republic (Imam Khomeyni) turned Iran into a powerful country which has inflicted the heaviest humiliation on the world bullies over the past decade."

Khamene'i, who was elected as Imam Khomeyni's successor by the Assembly of Experts on June 4, a day after the imam's demise, said the Iranian people should preserve the dignity they inherited from their deceased leader.

Ayatollah Khamene'i also lashed out at those governments which masqueraded as human rights advocates but originated the world's worst dictatorships through their ominous existence.

Referring to the West's backing of dictatorial regimes in South Africa, the occupied Palestine and many other Asian countries, Khamene'i questioned "who is backing the Zionist regime that is bombing south Lebanon, hitting kindergartens and committing the worst crimes?"

"Aren't such crimes being committed with the backing of the United States?" Khamene'i asked, adding "if the United States had not supported Israel it would not have been able to continue existence... in other words this is the United States that is bombing Lebanon."

Facing the vacuum caused by the imam's passing away, each and every Iranian should double his efforts, ensuring the victory of the Islamic Republic which enjoys so many valuable divine gifts, over all hostile powers, he said.

Khamene'i once again expressed his "full optimism" over the future of the Islamic Republic.

6 Kuwaiti Nationals Released to Officials

LD1806201889 Tehran IRNA in English 2005 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA—Iran agreed to a request by Kuwait to release six of its nationals who had entered Iranian waters in the Persian Gulf illegally on May 9. The six crewmen of a Kuwaiti boat seized by Iran, were released Sunday. According to the Public Relations Office of the Foreign Ministry, the crewmen were handed over to a group of Kuwaiti officials at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport Sunday evening.

The Kuwaiti officials from the Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs arrived here today to pick up the released Kuwaitis.

Presidential Election Moved Up to 28 Jul

LD1906081489 Tehran IRNA in English 0752 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, June 19, IRNA—The presidential election will be held three weeks earlier than planned and the new president would start his term before the official October date, a report published Monday said.

The daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI quoted an informed source that the election would be held on July 28 instead of August 18.

"Because of the selection of Ayatollah Khamene'i as leader... and the need for the election of a president as soon as possible, the officials in charge of the election proposed the date be brought forward," the paper said.

It added that the Interior Ministry was working to speed up legal preparations and coordinate plans with relevant authorities like the Council of Guardians, which supervises the election.

A press conference is currently underway at the Interior Ministry apparently to make an announcement on the election.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI also said the new president would begin his four-year term "a little sooner than the scheduled date." President Khamene'i's term officially ends on October 5. A referendum of constitutional amendments would also be held on the presidential election day, the paper said.

IRNA Previews Elections

LD1906092189 Tehran IRNA in English 0904 GMT 19 Jun 89

[By Mohammad Javid]

[Text] Tehran, June 19, IRNA—The presidential election will be held three weeks earlier on July 28 and candidates have been asked to sign up, the Interior Ministry said Monday.

The referendum on constitutional amendments would also be held the same day.

Before the death of Imam Khomeyni on June 3, the election had been scheduled for August 18. But a newspaper report Monday said new developments brought the need for an early election.

"Because of the selection of Ayatollah Khamene'i as leader... and the need for the election of a president as soon as possible, the officials in charge of the election proposed the date be brought forward," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI wrote.

The paper said the new president's term would also begin sooner than October 5, when President Khamene'i's second four-year term as president officially ends.

The Interior Ministry announcement gave no reason for changing the date of the presidential election—the fifth since 1980.

It said candidates must fill out forms at the ministry's headquarters in Tehran during a five-day period starting June 28.

So far only Majlis speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has officially announced his intention to run, and has received wide support from prominent groups and officials.

Support has come from President Khamene'i he have given strong backing to Hashemi-Rafsanjani before and after the passing away of the leader of the Islamic revolution. [sentence as received]

Khamene'i, 49, was selected the new leader on June 4 by a wide majority in the assembly of experts.

Taking Hashemi-Rafsanjani's victory for granted, the press have also predicted a harmonious partnership between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i who have worked closely since the Islamic revoltution.

With Khamene'i as leader and Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president "(in) very high probability the country will soon... adopt such a politico-economic strategy as to suit the secon decade of the Islamic revolution," the KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL editorial said Saturday.

In its June 11 editorial the paper predicted that the two would try to solve internal problems "including the economy and the slow pace in the post-war reconstruction." It also expected to see a foreign policy based on "peace, security, and stability..."

The referendum on constitutional amendments which are being drawn by a 25-member council could make the Hashemi-Rafsanjani-Khamene'i team even stronger—adding legal powers to mutual friendship.

The shifting of executive powers from the prime minister to the president, as proposed by the council, would create a stronger, more cohesive government which is certain to receive tips from Khamene'i as the experienced ex-president.

If elected, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, 54, would become the fourth president of the Islamic Republic after Abolhasan Bani Sadr, the late Mohammad Ali Raja'i, and Khamene'i.

Further on Elections

LD1906133389 Tehran IRNA in English 1318 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 19, IRNA—The presidential election and the referendum for constitutional amendments will be held on July 28, three weeks earlier than scheduled, the interior minister announced today.

Addressing a press conference here Monday, Hottat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said according to article 3 of the presidential election law, the Interior Ministry should hold new elections three months before the presidential term ends.

"In view of the great importance the late imam attached to the country's political stability and the grandeur of the Islamic Republic, it is imperative for us to fulfill his aspirations as soon as possible," he said.

The interior minister said the Council of Guardians had announced Monday its approval of the new date for the presidential election and constitutional referendum.

He said those who intend to run for the presidential election should call at the Interior Ministry to fill in applications and submit their documents as of June 28.

The applications would be submitted to the Council of Guardians which will later announce the names of the qualified candidates, he said.

Mohtashemi said his ministry was determined to hold elections for Islamic associations nation-wide after the election of a new president and formation of a cabinet.

He added work on the parties law was going on, license had been issued for three or four minorities to form parties and that the articles of Association of Muslim Women's Society and the Combatant Ulema Society had been approved.

Kashani Discusses Leadership in Prayers Sermon

LD1606185289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1521 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Second Friday prayer sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad Emani Kashani on 16 June in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] A leader is supposed to possess special attributes and for this reason the Assembly of Experts opted for such a leader, a pious, God-fearing man, who showed his piety and sincerity throughout his term of presidency. [passage omitted]

The appointment of Ayatollah Khamene'i as leader of the Islamic Republic met with approval from everyone. All the great sources of emulation [maraj'a taqlid], all great seminarians, all the eminent Islamic dignataries, various strata, the university staff, and the students, approved of him. In addition, His Excellency Khomeyni, in a letter that he graciously wrote to the honorable president of the Assembly of Experts, had said that the individual chosen should be a religious jurisprudent [mujtahed] and selected by the experts, who are themselves chosen by the people.

Indeed, what his excellency the imam, may his soul be sanctified, graciously said was sufficient. It was sufficient from the point of Islamic jurisprudence. Why? I will explain the reason. There is a debate concerning the guardianship [velayat] as to what should be done when there are a number of various religious jurisconsults [fuqaha]. If one person is selected as a jurisconsult [faqih] and gives his opinion, the others may also give their own opinions. What happens then? Even today, some are superior from the point of Islamic jurisprudence, a source of emulation, or a senior from the seminarian branch. What should be done? I and (?Iranian jurisconsults) debated this issue: The deceased shaykh—may God bless his soul—who was an expert in matters regarding inheritance [ersieh], the deceased Haj Mohammad Hoseyn Esfehani—may God bless his soul—he also debated this issue. All these gentlemen are Islamic researchers [mohaqeq]. The basic issue is that of potential disorder in the system—when one jurisconsult says one thing and another contradicts it. In this case we should obey the one who speaks out first, and the other's rhetoric is to be regarded as ineffectual. This is one debate.

There is also a second debate by another group of Islamic jurisconsults, which was also shared by our illustrious imam—may God bless his soul—and that is the issue of choice, and of course in respect to the infallible imams—may God's blessing be on them—it is argued that the imam is a proof of God and is chosen by God. But the people's allegiance consolidates this issue. Hence, a number of the Islamic jurisconsults are of the opinion that the people's pledge of allegiance to the noble prophet, which comes from the Koran, this allegiance was not connected to prophethood, but to the guardianship and governorship. This indicates that to govern there should be allegiance. [passage omitted]

In the opinion of the Islamic jurisconsults, in the era of the major occult [of the 12th Shi'ite imam who is in hiding], this is the issue. This issue was also debated in the same way by his excellency, the Imam—may God bless his soul—and that is: Whoever is chosen by the people, his rule is effectual, and since the experts have been chosen by the people, his rule is effectual, and since the experts have been chosen by the people, whoever is chosen by them as the leader, his rule is considered effectual, and his opinion is binding. [passage omitted]

The experts chose Khamene'i as leader and all strata of people proclaimed their pledge of allegiance, their support, and their approval. And today, the leadership of our dear leader is potent, stable, and steadfast, and the entire Iranian nation who believe in Islam and the revolution, are today his followers. [chanting] [passage omitted]

Meshkini's Sermon on Leadership Qualifications

LD1606152989 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Qom, June 16, IRNA—The head of the Assembly of Experts reiterated Friday that senior religious leaders could not automatically qualify for the leadership of the state, simply because they lacked the skills to carry out the job.

Many in the theological centers were maraje' taqlid (supreme religious leaders) [supreme sources of emulation] and spent a life time studying and analysing Islamic law, Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini said.

But he added: "They do not have enough knowledge of the current conditions in the world and the political, social, and cultural issues facing Muslims."

That was why four-fifths of the Assembly of Experts chose Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i to be the new leader after the passing away of Imam Khomeyni.

Meshkini, who was delivering the Friday prayer sermon in Qom, added that if the Iranian nation wanted to continue the path of the late imam they should obey Khamene'i's orders.

"I, as a theological student in Qom, feel obliged to express my loyalty to the new leader so that this revolution, under his leadership, would reach its divine goals."

The ayatollah stressed that the selection of the new leader had brought despair for the the internal and external enemies of the Islamic Republic.

Further on Meshkini Sermon

LD1606185489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Excerpts] This week like every week, various classes of bereaved people of the holy city of Qom, along with Iranian and foreign lecturers, scholars and clergymen residing at the Qom seminary, pilgrims of the holy shrine of His Excellency Ma'sumah, and military and security forces gathered at the Qom prayer house and performed the enemy-crushing rites of the Friday prayers, led by Ayatollah Meshkini. [Passage omitted

During his sermon Ayatollah Meshkini referred to the appropriate selection of Ayatollah Khamene'i as the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI]. Remarking that during his lifetime Imam Khomeyni had also commented on the suitability of His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i for leadership, Meshkini said: Inspired by the enlightening guidance of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, and aware of the piety, bravery, political sense, and management qualities of Ayatollah Khamene'i, the Assembly of Experts selected him as the leader of the IRI.

The chairman of the Assembly of Experts then cited Ayatollah Khamene'i's knowledge of military, executive, and seminary issues as other effective factors in the choice by the Assembly of Experts. He said: The glowing record of His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i during the war and his close ties with the Armed Forces can play a significant role in fortifying and uniting the country's Armed Forces. Also, because of the clergy's familiarity with the history of the struggles and seminary days of Ayatollah Khamene'i, they considered this choice extremely apt and swore allegiance to him. Also because of Ayatollah Khamene'i's all-around experience at the various scenes of the Islamic revolution alongside the resisting people of Iran, the Muslim ummah of Iran have endorsed this good selection and sworn allegiance to the leader of the IRI.

He then referred to the disappointment of the enemies of Islam and the Islamic revolution at the speedy and apt selection of His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i as the leader of the IRI. He said: The enemies who had awaited the death of the imam of the ummah in order to attain their cursed goals saw the deep sentiments of the people and their historic, million-strong crowd at the funeral of the founder of the IRI and realized that the people of Iran only think of Islam and the lofty goals of the Islamic revolution and will accept no rule but that of Islam. The despondency and disappointment of the enemies reached a peak when they saw that in the shortest possible time the Assembly of Experts had selected a protege of the imam of the ummah as the leader of the Islamic Republic.

Finally, Ayatollah Meshkini said support for His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i was synonymous with support for the lofty goals and ideals of the founder of the IRI. He added: For the survival of Islam and the stability of the Islamic revolution, we must now support the imam's protege and the chosen leader of the islamic Republic in the same way we were devoted to the imam of the ummah.

Plans To Transfer Khomeyni Funds to Seminary

LD1606111889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, in a letter which he sent to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, requested that the funds which exist in the account of his holiness the imam be placed at the disposal of the management board of Qom religious seminary. The text of the letter of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the dear and popular leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, may your blessings continue. After salutations and greetings: All the funds which exist in various banks in the name of his holiness the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, are sahm-e imam [religious donations paid by the faithful to various clerics who recieve them on behalf of the hidden imam], peace by upon him, and not a penny of it belongs to the inheritors [of Khomeyni]. According to the will of his holiness the imam, whose funds should be placed at the disposal of the esteemed management board of Qom religious seminary, to be spent in the customary way in the religious seminaries. That

esteemed personage [Khamene'i] is requested to issue orders that the funds existing in the accounts of his holiness the imam are transferred to that [management] board. With respects.

Yours sincerely,

Ahmad Khomeyni

16 Jun 89

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, ordered the minister of economy and finance to place all the funds existing in the accounts of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, sanctified be his soul, in various banks at the disposal of the esteemed management board of Qom religious seminary. The text of the decree of the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran is as follows:

In the name of god, the compassionate, the merciful. Your excellency Mr. Irvani, esteemed minister of economy and finance. In accordance with the letter of the esteemed and dear son of his holiness Imam Khomeyni, sanctified be his soul, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, may his blessings continue: All the funds which exist in various banks in his holiness's name are sahm-e imam, peace be upon him, and do not belong to his holiness's inheritors, and according to his will they should be spent by the esteemed management board of Qom religious seminary for the expenses of religious seminaries. Therefore, it is hereby decreed that all the funds existing in the accounts of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, sanctified be his soul, in banks, are to be placed at the disposal of the esteemed management board of religious seminaries.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

[Dated] 16 June 89

Ayatollah Araki Places Funds at Khamene'i's Disposal
LD1806145989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Araki has placed at the disposal of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the sum of 1.5 billion rials donated by the resisting and martyr-nurturing people of Rafsanjan to be sepnt on the reconstruction of the war-stricken regions.

Khamene'i Addresses Teachers, Students
LD1606124189 Tehran IRNA in English 1230 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—"Nothing would be as important for Iran in the long run as culture and education," leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i said Friday.

Khamene'i urged all people to double their constructive efforts in this path in an address to thousands of teachers and students who rallied to the presidential office to pledge allegiance to the new leader.

He said global power wanted to take the highest advantage from the passing away of the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni to weaken Islam and the Islamic Republic.

"However, the great Iranian nation used the event to further stabilize the Islamic government," he said.

Although Iran with its power and political stability had disappointed its enemies, "we cannot hope they would abandon their plots unless further consolidation of the Islamic Republic is guaranteed through constructive efforts."

Education Minister Mohammad 'Ali Najafi who led the rally expressed condolences on the imam's death and referred to Khamene'i's personal interest in cultural affairs.

"We are especially honored because the new leader is a cultural personality, and as the head of the Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution, has laid much stress on culture," Najafi said.

There are more than 13 million students who would double in the next five years said the minister, adding 700,000 teachers hoped they would succeed in fulfilling their responsibility towards them.

'Text' of Khamene'i Address
LD1606141689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] As you were informed earlier in the bulletin, teachers and students from Tehran Province, accompanied by the minister and officials of the Ministry of Education and Training, marched today in the streets of Tehran to express allegiance to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They were received by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i in the presidential office. In ceremonies following the minister of education and training's report and his emphasis regarding the obedience of those involved in education to the esteemed leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i gave a speech. By broadcasting the text of the speech of the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we also end this hour's bulletin. Good day:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The bitter incident and the heavy loss, the demise of our great leader and our illustrious imam which, without doubt was the most bitter and most calamitous incident which has befallen the Iranian nation—and was even among rare incidents which has affected all the Muslims of the world—this

calamity and this loss is, from a different point of view, also a divine tribulation. It is a divine trial for our people and for all the strata of this great, heroic and steadfast nation.

All God's trials are like this. Those who are faced with such a trial, with their actions, their determination, their proper choice, they emerge successfully from that trial. In that case, that calamitous and bitter incident will become a step toward their perfection and their growth although it is a calamity, and is hard and bitter. However, if those who are faced with that calamity can find the right path and do the right thing through their correct decision, through their correct choice, through their correct move, in that case the same bitter and calamitous incident would be a means of ascendence and development for the people who are faced with that trial. However, if on the contrary, they deal wrongly with the divine trial and tribulation, if they confront that calamitous event with lack of vision, with weakness of will, with confusion, with the misuse of divine opportunities. By giving in to human weaknesses and frailty, that calamity will not educate them, will not advance them, but will inflict further calamity upon them. [passage omitted].

All tests and tribulations have two outcomes: Either the person or the nation which is confronted with that will become successful in that test or will be defeated. The passing of our dear imam is a test for us. I must say that so far, thanks be to God, our nation has acted in such a way that they have emerged with pride from this test. Despite the fact that world arrogance was determined to make the maximum use from this incident for the weakening of Islam and the Muslims and the weakening of the order of the Islamic system, this great nation, this mature nation, this well-guided nation which has attracted to itself God's bounties, succeeded to use this incident for the stabilization of the system of the Islamic Republic for Islam and for Muslims. Today all the analysts throughout the world admit that the Iranian nation and the system of the Islamic Republic, in strength, in power, and in stability is not less than before, if not more. They may be stronger, but not weaker. Of course, they say that they are stronger.

This maturity, this awareness, this determination and the informed decision of the Iranian nation in connection with the stability of the Islamic Republic, the people's movement, the people's presence in the mourning ceremonies, their expression of loyalty to their imam and their peerless leader, their expression of loyalty to the order of the Islamic Republic, their unity, solidarity and cooperation which was observed among all the strata of the nation during the past few days, the sincerity which the people demonstrated, and the courage which they revealed in dealing with any incident did not allow the enemy to have the audacity of moving a finger when faced with your powerful and decisive national and Islamic determination. So far, everything has been very good.

I must tell you dear educators that the issue of culture, education, and training is the primary issue in our system.

In the long term, nothing has the importance of education in our country. The role of teacher and trainer in our society is a first-class role. In reality, education constitutes our barricade of struggle against tyranny and global arrogance and against the bullying and the oppression of the world's political evils. [passage omitted] The issue of education is fundamental, as emphasized by our dear imam. Education is one of the basic ingredients of our revolution and our imam's path.

[Words indistinct] today world arrogance, the world's political bullies, and [word indistinct] throughout the world are against Islam. They are the enemies of the Islamic system. This is because they are totally submerged in corruption and decadence, moving on the basis of oppression, bullying, and coercion [words indistinct]. What threatens them is Islam. The great danger for them is the awakening of Muslims. That is why they are so much against Islam and the Islamic revolution. It is natural that they will do whatever they can against Islam and the Islamic system. Only in one case will the system of the Islamic Republic be able to immunize itself completely, and that implies disappointing the enemies through the system's strength. On the day the Islamic system manages to disappoint the enemies through its political and economic strength, and through proving that it has the power to manage its affairs, we can then be assured that the enemies will stop their conspiracies, as they will realize such acts will prove fruitless. All the efforts of all strata and officials—low- or high-ranking—everyone, should make every attempt to increase the strength of the Islamic Republic system. This is the ultimate means for disappointing the enemies: political, economic, and military strength. None of which can be achieved unless through construction. [sentence as heard] All those who have a role in management of the country or its construction must multiply the degree of their efforts. In the sphere of production, the producers should—as far as possible—enhance the country's production volume. The management and governmental sections, with good intentions and gaining the people's confidence as well as provision of sincere services for the people, must enhance the quality of their works. [passage omitted]

Praise be to God, we are strong, while enjoying stability. I do not think that the assets held by the Islamic Republic—namely, the people's trust and confidence—can be found anywhere else in the world. This asset should be preserved, both by the officials and the people, everybody. In our country there is no separation between the government and the nation. Everyone is a soldier of the revolution and must remain so. [crowd chants] This spirit of fighting for the revolution should be maintained by everyone, it makes no difference who they are, as there is no difference between officials and the people. We all have a singular unity vis-a-vis Islam and the Islamic system.

Once again I ask you dear brother and sister educators to consider your work important, as you already do. You must appreciate your work and try to put up with the problems. You must know that the most fundamental and basic task in our society is education. God willing, proper education, proper high education, will follow. That, in turn, will lead to a proper and high-level system of government, management, and organization. This is from where the fundamental interests of the nation, the government, and the country will stem. [passage omitted]

TEHRAN TIMES Praises Khamene'i Choice

LD1706074989 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 17, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Saturday editorialised on the leadership issue stating that Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's selection as the new leader had brought harmony to the system.

Ever since President 'Ali Khamene'i was selected the new leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran on June 4, all political factions and groups have rallied behind him.

"Before his demise [as received] the country was facing two wings each toeing a different line on the economy. But the turn of events as can obviously be observed is moving the nation towards a fully coordinated and harmonious political structure," it said.

The paper said with Khamene'i as leader and Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president after the August elections, in "very high probability the country will soon be on its way to adopt such a politico-economic strategy as to suit the second decade of the Islamic Revolution."

The new leadership enjoying strong political and religious support has ample opportunities to find solutions to the country's problems especially those in economic fields.

With the removal of numerous decision-making bodies, most of which with no legal grounds for existence, a unified politico-economic and executive system can be built, it added.

The paper praised the swift move in selecting Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i who replaced the late Imam Khomeyni only a day after he passed away on June 3 and said it was a duty to obey the new leader.

Iravani in Moscow To Prepare Speaker's Visit

LD1806143289 Tehran IRNA in English 1258 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA—Economic and Financial Affairs Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani heading a top level delegation departed for Moscow Sunday to make preparations for the coming visit to Moscow of Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Iravani is scheduled to hold final talks on long-term economic cooperation agreements between the two countries that will be inked during Rafsanjani's visit.

Rafsanjani, also the acting commander of the Armed Forces, will leave for Moscow Tuesday [20 June] at the invitation of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Rafsanjani is the highest ranking Iranian official to visit Moscow since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Iravani told IRNA at the airport that the Iranian delegation was to finalize all documents pertinent to Tehran-Moscow economic cooperation until the year 2000, exchange of commodities, transport of goods by railways and Iran's natural gas exports.

The minister is accompanied by one of his deputies and deputy ministers of energy, foreign affairs, mines and metals, construction jihad, roads and transportation and oil.

Daily Lauds Prospects for Iran-USSR Relations

LD1806165589 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA—The Persian daily KEYHAN said Sunday that the West is looking with jealousy at the new developments in Tehran-Moscow relations, and that Imam Khomeyni having deceased, it has renewed efforts to woo the Islamic Republic, vainly hoping to mislead it from the revolution's avowed goals.

On the eve of the visit to Moscow by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said the daily, "the prospects in Iran-Soviet relations seem exceptionally bright."

A long-term economic accord between the two countries in the area of commerce, science and technology until the year 2,000 is to be signed and the draft has been prepared jointly by the deputy minister of foreign economic relations of the Soviet Union Mordinoff and Iran's Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs 'Ali Majedi. It anticipates joint construction of several dams in Iran for electrical generation, and export to the Soviet Union by Iran of 2 to 3 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually.

The daily said as early as a year ago two elements in the Soviet politics which had caused bleakness in relations with Iran were gradually eliminated. One, according to the daily, was the Soviet decision to discontinue support for Ba'thist Iraq, and the second the official recognition of the right of Soviet citizens to practice the faith of their choice.

The Soviet Union has a rapidly expanding 60-million plus Muslim population, which shares religious, historical, cultural and lingual ties with their brethren across

the borders in Islamic Iran, and the far-sighted imam had called for expansion of ties with the northern neighbour, "on an equal footing."

"One should not forget the historic message to Mikhail Gorbachev by Imam Khomeyni," said the daily, recalling the leader of the Islamic revolution's unprecedented letter last January 4, in which he had invited the head of the most influential atheist government to consider Islam as a substitute to the "decadent communist system."

"The message had its own impact in helping the Soviet leader reconcile with metaphysical realties," said KEYHAN, noting the recent call by the Soviet Foreign Ministry for withdrawal of Iraqi forces to international borders, and the validity of the 1975 Iran-Iraq accord in relation with all border disputes including the Arvand River. "But," said KEYHAN, "perhaps most important of all is the jealousy of certain Western countries about the improving relations between the two countries."

"The geopolitical and strategic importance of our country," said the commentary, "is obvious to all Westerners and especially to the Americans. This fact has long since been a point for observation in the foreign policy planning of Washington and all plots of the Great Satan including its rousing of Iraq to a war, its military presence in the Persian Gulf and its sending of spies to Iran were undertaken because of the strategic importance of Iran."

The Americans who are total outsiders to the region, have always hated to see the establishment of amicable relations between Iran and the Soviet Union, said the daily, and to this end have tried every trick up their sleeve.

Even London, the chief culprit in the dirty Salman Rushdie affair is sending feelers to the Islamic Republic, said the daily.

It said, in the wake of Imam Khomeyni's demise the Western states, and especially the Great Satan have concluded for themselves that Iran will discontinue its "iron-willed independence" and with the enlightened Ruhollah no longer there, may be tempted to have a bite at the deceptive bait of the West.

Judging by recent media reports, the West thinks the present moment is the best occasion for fishing in troubled waters and that it is preparing every necessary device for deceiving Iran, cautioned the daily.

However, it noted, the strongest weapon of the Islamic Republic is "the will of the imam," which has rightly been dubbed the "epistle of the Islamic revolution." To the discomfiture of all evil forces it is a beacon of light for the country's foreign policy, steering Iran from all pitfalls and covetous eyes.

KEYHAN concluded "the ever-in-the scene people of Iran during their participation in the burial ceremonies of their beloved leader voiced their allegiance to the ideals of the imam and promised they will remain perfectly committed to his firm uncompromising path, no matter whatever the West likes to call it "absolutism or fundamentalism."

Velayati Departs for Pakistan, Comments on Trip

NC1906062689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati left this morning for Pakistan as head of a political delegation. Before his departure from Tehran, the foreign minister spoke to our correspondent Ja'fari:

[Begin recording] [Ja'fari] Mr Velayati, please tell us what topics are you going to discuss with Pakistani officials during your trip.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The ties between Iran and Pakistan, two neighboring countries, are friendly and fraternal. In past years, these ties have been constantly expanding and deepening. The attitude of the Pakistani people and Government during the recent dark days in the Islamic world, that is, the death of his eminence the imam—may his soul be sanctified—indicates the brotherly closeness between the two countries. Pakistan has expressed sympathy more than other countries in the Islamic world. Obviously, at an opportune moment, and certainly in the near future, talks between the two countries will take place on regional and international issues so that a necessary coordination between the two countries' position may be achieved.

This trip is also being conducted with this in mind so that we may discuss with the Pakistani officials, God willing, bilateral relations and regional issues, particularly the Afghanistan issue. This issue is a source of intensive concern to Iran and Pakistan, who are neighbors of Afghanistan. The two countries do not desire anything except an independent Afghanistan with a government based on the wishes of the Muslim people of that country. The constant advisory role of Iran and Pakistan regarding assistance to the Afghan people for the attainment of their objectives can prove to be decisive and fundamental.

[Ja'fari] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Afghan Mujahidin Pledge Allegiance to Khamene'i

LD1606155989 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Kerman, June 16, IRNA—The eight-party Afghan mujahidin coalition has pledged allegiance to the new leader of the Islamic Republic and expressed hope that issues of the Muslim world would be resolved under Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i's leadership.

Spokesman Mohammad Karim Khalili said here Friday [16 June] that the passing away of Imam Khomeyni had created a stronger tide of Islamic sentiment in the Muslim world, in spite of the predictions of the Western media and politicians.

More than one million people, Shi'as and Sunnis, held a rally in Kabul when they heard the news about the imam's death, which was "unprecedented in Afghan history." Khalili said. The Marxist Kabul regime was then forced to declare a three-day public mourning, which was in fact an acknowledgement of the imam's influence in Afghanistan.

Khomeyni Had Cancer; Poor Health Detailed
LD1706153789 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 17, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni was inflicted with advanced cancer in the last weeks of his life, doctors treating the late leader of the Islamic revolution disclosed.

In an interview televized on Thursday and Friday, Drs Hassan Arefi and Iraj Fazel also revealed that in 1986 the imam almost died of a heart attack, which was most feared due to his poor coronary condition.

"Normally, cancer spreads slowly in old people, but this was a kind which spread very quickly and took over everywhere," said Arefi.

Arefi, who was the imam's chief physician since his return from exile in February 1979, said the disease was exceptional—as exceptional as the imam himself.

The interview was conducted in the hospital room where the imam spent 11 days before his death on June 3 of a heart attack.

Worrying signs of cancer were revealed after extensive tests on May 18 at the imam's residence. A number of tumors, the biggest 4 by 5 cm, were sighted covered with old and fresh blood.

Worst affected areas in the middle section of the stomach was removed in an operation on May 23. But the imam's condition steadily worsened and doctors struggled to control new crises every day.

On Saturday, June 3, the kidneys stopped functioning and serious breathing problems emerged. White blood cells multiplied every hour and blood pressure gradually dropped. The imam was revived after a heart attack at 3 pm.

"But the situation was very critical and depressing, until the ominous hour: At 22:00... blood pressure fell to its lowest point and the heart stopped beating," a sad-faced Fazel said.

The account was the first ever detailed medical report on the imam's health condition. According to Arefi, the late leader had a long history of heart trouble, dating back to his exile years in Iraq.

In 1980 some of his heart veins had thickened so much that reduced the blood flow by 80 percent, Arefi said.

As the imam grew older and more involved in the Islamic revolution and state affairs, the problem resurfaced with frequent chest pains. Once it almost took the imam's life.

On 26 March, 1986 the imam was making tea in the kitchen when he felt the need for a doctor and pressed one of the buzzers placed in various rooms to warn of a sudden illness.

One of the doctors who were on 24-hour watch at the residence jumped to see what had happened. He found the imam lying on the ground showing no sign of life.

"He noticed that at that moment his holiness showed none of the signs of life. There was no indication of a pulse or breathing... his holiness had died for a moment," Arefi recalled. The doctor massaged the imam's heart and performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to revive him.

It was the most serious incident since the imam was transferred from Qom to a hospital in Tehran in January 1980 for a heart complication. He was hospitalized for 48 days and later remained in the capital because of access to modern medical facilities.

Political developments clearly influenced the imam's condition which became worse in his last few months, Arefi had observed.

"Whenever the imam got heart pains... we would look for causes and in most cases we found an emotional, political or social link... which had been able to distress the imam," he said.

The imam was an excellent patient. He would precisely carry out the doctors instructions with no questions asked. This drew praise from Fazel who was particularly impressed last month by the way the imam reacted to the advice that he should be operated on.

"He just simply said 'do as you see fit'," Fazel recalled.

"He was the most obedient patient I had seen in my life... he always carried out the doctors orders and never showed that he was worried."

In another incident a few days after the operation, the imam had left the hospital bed to relieve himself when Arefi though the imam was not feeling well.

He shouted for help from other doctors but the imam in a reassuring gesture said: "I feel fine. Dr Arefi (this kind of reaction) was unexpected of you."

The imam knew doctors could not treat him one hundred percent. He once told Arefi that what doctors wanted was to cure his old age and that was not possible. For his age—he was 86 when he died—some of his problems were not so serious, the imam had said.

Although he regularly had to take pills for various complications the imam was extremely sensitive to them. He was also careful in his diet. In recent months he refused to eat meat in the evenings and very little during the day.

Majlis Members Ratify Referendum Bill

LD1806150489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Excerpts] During today's Majlis open session, the referendum bill was urgently debated in the presence of the Council of Guardians members and was ratified. We interviewed Mr [Mohammad Reza] Sadr, the Interior Ministry under secretary for political and social affairs.

[Begin Sadr recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The referendum act embodies what has been foreseen in the constitution—that is, asking the people's view on important political, social, and economic issues. There was no set law for this. After his excellency the imam ordered the honorable Reappraisal Council to revise the constitution, the Interior Ministry prepared the referendum bill and presented it to the Majlis through official channels. [passage omitted]

One of the points in the act is that the referendum will be carried out directly and on the basis of a secret ballot. It will be on a yes-no questionnaire basis. That is, the votes will be given two pieces of paper with "yes" and "no" on them. They can then put whichever they wish in the ballot box. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Pakistan

Indian Foreign Secretary Arrives for Talks

BK1606131589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] The foreign secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan will begin in Islamabad tomorrow. Bilateral, regional, and international issues will be reviewed during the 2-day talks.

The Indian delegation led by the secretary of external affairs, Mr S.K. Singh, arrived in Islamabad this afternoon. Talking to newsmen at the airport, Mr Singh expressed the hope that in view of the present improved environment the talks will give an opportunity to sort out the pending issues and strengthen bilateral relations.

Joint Statement Issued

BK1706144089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] Pakistan and India have agreed to work for a comprehensive settlement to ensure durable peace in the Siachen region. The settlement will be based on redeployment of forces to reduce the chances of conflict, avoiding the use of force, and determining future troop positions on the ground in light of the Simla agreement. The military authorities of the two countries will determine the positions of the forces.

This was stated in a joint press statement issued in Rawalpindi today at the end of 3 days of talks between the defense secretaries of India and Pakistan. The two sides agreed that after a detailed review of these proposals, the next round of defense secretary-level talks on the Siachen issue will be held soon in New Delhi.

Meanwhile, the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan held two rounds of talks in Islamabad today. They discussed matters of mutual interest and reviewed the progress made between the two countries in various fields.

Indian Officials Meet Bhutto

BK1706153989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1300 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] Indian Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh and Defense Secretary Naresh Chandra had an informal meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Rawalpindi today. Senior officials of the two countries were also present on the occasion.

The Indian foreign secretary also met with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and discussed ways and means to improve relations between Pakistan and India.

Troop Withdrawals Planned

BK1806123089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 18 (AFP)—India and Pakistan have agreed to withdraw their troops from the disputed Siachen Glacier in the northern state of Kashmir, Pakistani Foreign Secretary Humayun Khan said here Sunday.

Mr Humayun Khan told a news conference the two armies would go back to the position existing in 1972. The troops had been engaged in frequent clashes in the area since 1984.

"We have succeeded in removing a potential danger of conflict," Mr Humayun Khan said.

He said the agreement reached between the Indian defence secretary Naresh Chandra and his Pakistani counterpart Ijlal Haider Zaidi has been endorsed by the foreign secretaries of the two countries, who met here for two days.

Indian Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh who was also present at the airport press conference said "I endorse what Mr Humayun Khan said."

Singh Meets Ishaq Khan 18 Jun

BK1806162089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] The Indian foreign secretary called on the president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today. They discussed matters of mutual interest. Mr S.K. Singh conveyed to the president good wishes from the Indian leaders which the president (?firmly) reciprocated.

Talks Conclude 18 Jun

BK1806132689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] The foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India have expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved during their just-concluded talks in Islamabad. They also noted that progress has been achieved in keeping with the spirit generated at the summit meeting between the prime ministers of the two countries in December last. They said this at a news conference jointly addressed by Pakistan's foreign secretary, Dr Humayun Khan, and his Indian counterpart, Mr S.K. Singh, in Islamabad this afternoon before the departure of the Indian foreign secretary for home.

Dr Humayun Khan said that they have reviewed progress in bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues. He said the defense secretaries' meeting has also made a significant advance and both sides have committed themselves to the observance of the Simla agreement and the redeployment of forces to the positions occupied at the time of Simla agreement.

The Indian foreign secretary also associated himself with the statement of his Pakistani counterpart and said that their main aim is to improve bilateral relations and maintain and build up closer cooperation, peace, harmony and togetherness.

News Conference Held

BK1806155889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Excerpts] The foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India have expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved during the secretary-level talks between the two countries. They said this progress has been achieved in keeping with the spirit generated at the summit meeting between the prime ministers of the two countries last December. They said this at a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon prior to the departure of the Indian foreign secretary for home. [passage omitted]

The Pakistani foreign secretary, Dr Humayun Khan, said the defense secretaries meeting also made significant progress and both sides have agreed to observe the Simla agreement and redeploy their forces to the positions occupied at the time of the Simla agreement. The actual position of the forces will be determined by the military authorities of the two countries. Dr Humayun Khan said they also exchanged views on the joint ministerial commission meeting to be held next month and on SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] foreign ministers meet to begin in Islamabad within a few days. [passage omitted]

When asked whether the nuclear issue was also discussed, the Indian foreign secretary said they discussed cooperation between the two countries in the nuclear sector. The Pakistani foreign secretary said that he reiterated Pakistan's readiness for any regional or bilateral arrangements on this issue, and that the indian foreign secretary made a note of this.

Iran's Velayati Arrives in Islamabad 19 Jun

BK1906081689 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Jun 89

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, arrived in Islamabad today on a short visit to Pakistan. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said he will hold talks with the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, on bilateral relations and the situation in the region, especially the Afghanistan problem. He will also call on the president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto.

At the airport, the Iranian foreign minister was received, among others, by the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Urges India To Withdraw IPKF

BK1706120389 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] In a special message to the nation, President R. Premadasa observed that the prime minister of India and the Indian government had often stated that the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] would be withdrawn any time the president of Sri Lanka wanted that done. He reiterated the statement in the earlier Foreign Ministry communique that the only condition necessary for the recall of the Indian troops was a decision to that effect by the president of Sri Lanka. This condition, he said, had been met by his request to India to withdraw the IPKF by the end of July this year.

President Premadasa went on to state that the SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] Summit conference scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka later this year could not be hosted by his country as long as a foreign army remained within its source. He appealed to his countrymen to join hands and stand together on this issue. He also observed that most political parties and other organizations in Sri Lanka had already endorsed his decision. He added that in India too many powerful political parties were calling upon the government to withdraw her forces from Sri Lanka.

Foreign Office Comments

BK1606121589 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has taken note of recent statements made in Sri Lanka and India concerning the withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] from Sri Lanka. The ministry feels the position of the Sri Lanka Government was clearly expressed by the president himself in the course of his address at the pinnacle unveiling ceremony at Battaramulla on the 1st of this month.

The president, who said that many people asked him when the Indian Peacekeeping Force will be leaving, noted that at this moment the troops have started moving out. He went on to say that even before he made a request for the withdrawal of the IPKF, the Indian prime minister had started withdrawing the Indian forces from Sri Lanka.

The president said that he was grateful to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the Indian Government for making arrangements to take the Indian Army back. Already between 7,000 and 8,000 soldiers have left Sri Lanka. Now what is required is to expedite this process and send them back early. All of us must assist in the process.

The president further said that at a time when the foreign force, which came here, is moving out from our motherland, we must work with patience. Having a foreign force in an independent country is a slur on its self-respect. It devalued the freedom of the country. At this moment we must work peacefully and patiently. We must expedite their departure. I will be informing about it in a day or two.

The statement issued by the Foreign Ministry said that the president of Sri Lanka had requested the early withdrawal of Indian forces from Sri Lanka's soil. The president had stressed the basis on which the Indian forces would be withdrawn. We all know that India has repeatedly assured us that any time the president of Sri Lanka wants to make a request, they will take their forces back. They started pulling them back even before I told them. The president has said that he intended to ask India to take their forces back. It has become a necessity now. The Indian Government has assured us that they will do so at any time.

The president expressed his desire for the expeditious withdrawal of the IPKF. The end of July 1989 will mark 2 years since the IPKF came to Sri Lanka. Therefore, I will request the Indian Government to try as far as possible to complete the withdrawal of all the IPKF troops by the end of July. I would like to see that the IPKF troops leave Sri Lanka by the end of July.

The statement said that the president had expressed his appreciation of India's role by stressing the need for the withdrawal of the IPKF by the end of July. We will never forget the assistance and help given by the Indian Government to Sri Lanka. While it was a great help to have sent the peacekeeping force to this country at the request of our former president, recalling the peacekeeping force back to India will help us greatly at this moment. India's assent to call back the peacekeeping force during the next 2 months will be considered as a favor. I have no doubt that India will do so. I hope to make a friendly request to that effect soon.

The president went on to highlight another important reason as to why the IPKF should be withdrawn by the end of July, according to the statement by the foreign ministry. It is none other than the responsibility of Sri Lanka to host the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit conference later this year. Referring to the presence of the Indian forces in Sri Lanka, he said he will admit that it is difficult for us to host and participate in such a conference while keeping a foreign army in our country.

The president appealed to all to make a firm resolution to act with patience and desist from violence during the 2-month period in which he expects the IPKF troop to be withdrawn from Sri Lanka. He emphasized his position by saying let us be determined to send back the IPKF troops to maintain our self-respect and host the forthcoming SAARC summit with self-respect and dignity as a free and sovereign state.

LTTE Group Backs Withdrawal

BK1706120789 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Excerpt] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] delegation has welcomed the measures taken by President Premadasa to expedite the withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] from the north and the east.

The LTTE delegation and the ministerial team holding talks examined the Indo-Lanka agreement in its entirety. They agreed that the IPKF came entirely at the request of the president of Sri Lanka and, therefore, should leave when required to do so.

The LTTE were of the view that a signature campaign and forced participation in protest meetings in support of the continued presence of the IPKF do not reflect the true sentiments of the people in the north and the east. They reiterated that this does not help to prevent a true

picture of the political realities in the Tamil-speaking areas to the Indian public or the international community. They were of the view that the guiding factor should be wishes and the aspirations of the people and not legalistic arguments. They said that there is a general consensus among all the communities concerned that the IPKF should leave the country and that peace and normalcy be restored respecting the wishes of the people. [passage omitted]

United Nations' Help Sought

BK1806084089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0812 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] Colombo, June 18 (AFP)—The government may seek U.N. intervention in the wake of New Delhi's virtual rejection of a deadline set by Colombo for the withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka, press reports here said Sunday.

Privately owned newspapers said the government had asked prominent Sri Lankan lawyers abroad about the possibility of raising the issue of the Indian military presence before the U.N. Security Council.

Three Sunday papers quoted unidentified sources as saying that the government planned to urge the world organisation to prevail on India to pull out its troops by the end of July.

"Informed sources said the issue may be raised (at the Security Council) as the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) staying on beyond the July end against the wishes of an independent country would amount to an act of aggression," the SUNDAY TIMES said.

There was no official reaction from the foreign ministry to the report.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa has said that he wants the 45,000-strong IPKF withdrawan by July 29, the second anniversary of the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which brought the foreign army to his Indian Ocean island republic.

Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi has virtually rejected Mr Premadasa's unilateral deadline and attached conditions to the withdrawal, including devolution of more powers to the island's Tamil minority.

"There is only one condition that had to be met for the withdrawal of this force. That condition and the only condition is that the recall to India or the withdrawal of this peace-keeping force should be on the decision of the president of Sri Lanka.

"Now, that condition has also been met," Mr Premadasa said in a special message to his 16.5 million people repeated on state television and radio and by the press.

(Newspapers in New Delhi on Sunday quoted Defense Minister Krishna Chandra Pant as saying that the IPKF was "duty bound" to ensure that the provisions of the peace accord were "fulfilled properly and effectively."

(Mr Pant, who was addressing Indian troops near the Indo-Nepal frontier Saturday, said that because New Delhi was a gurantor to the accord, "it is our duty to ensure its effective implementation through the IPKF.")

Mr Premadasa also asked his people not to do anything that would perpetuate the presence of the IPKF in the island's Tamil-populated northeast in the wake of anti-Indian agitations and strikes paralysing essential services in the country.

Mr Premadasa vowed during his election campaign in December to send back the Indian army, a demand of almost all opposition parties, militants and all shades of public opinion here, if elected head of state.

India sent its troops to enforce the peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign, but ended up fighting the dominant Tamil separatist group after it repudiated the peace plan and refused to surrender.

India has lost nearly 900 soldiers and killed more than 2,000 suspected members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which refused to lay down arms, in bitter fighting since October 10, 1987.

Possible Court Action

BK1806111189 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry maintains that it is the president of Sri Lanka's decision, and that alone, which is a condition required for the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] troops' pullout. Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, reacting to the Lankan request to have the entire IPKF pulled out by the end of July, insists that any withdrawal under such a timeframe was impossible.

According to a Foreign Office source, the Lankan government is awaiting a written reply from Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to the special message Mr Premadasa sent to him through Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratna on the troops' withdrawal.

Authoritative sources, quoted by the press, also said that the government will have no alternative but to take the dispute to the International Court in the Hague if New Delhi sticks to its present position refusing to accede to the president's request made under the terms of the accord.

Tamils Expose India's 'Diabolic Plot'

BK1706120989 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jun 89

[Text] The LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] military intelligence has uncovered a diabolic plot hatched by the Indian military authorities in collusion with its quisling armed groups to sabotage the current peace talks between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Government.

A news release of the LTTE's Political Committee states that the aim of this plot is to discredit the integrity of their organization.

The Political Committee says this treacherous scheme has been worked out by the Indian Army to launch attacks on Sinhala villages, on Sri Lankan Army camps in the north and the east. The objective is to cause heavy casualties among the Sinhala people and lay the blame on the LTTE.

According to LTTE's military intelligence, the Indian plan is to plant evidence by placing captured LTTE weapons, ammunition, literature, uniforms and cyanide capsules at the site of these incidents.

The LTTE's Political Committee further states that while forewarning of such an eventuality, their organization outrightly condemns the sinister scheme to (?obstruct) their sincere efforts to bring peace to the Tamils.

Ministry Clarifies Devolution of Powers to Councils

BK1806113989 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jun 89

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has clarified the devolution of powers to the Provincial Councils. The ministry points out the devolution of power is clearly set out in the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. The implementation of the devolved power is primarily a matter for the eight Provincial Councils. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that the Provincial Councils would have to set up their own organizational structures for such implementation and pass the necessary legislation in their councils for the effective implementation of the devolution.

The president has had a discussion with all the chief ministers and the officials and would take necessary remedial measures. The ministry notes that subsequent to this discussion, the president directed that certain initiatives be taken to help Provincial Councils to set up their organizational structures. Furthermore, it is incorrect to say that no effort had been made to devolve powers in critical areas, such as law and order. The ministry points out that drafting of the necessary laws are under way and it is expected that these will be presented in Parliament soon.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry was responding to certain matters on devolution [of powers to the Northeastern Provincial Council in accordance with India-Sri Lanka accord] referred to in a press release issued by the Indian High Commission in Colombo.